

HER MAJESTY'S HEALTH

No Appearance Whatever of Infirmity—Postal Union Convention at Washington.

Death of Ex-Commissioner of Customs Johnson—The Buildings at Bislely.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
OTTAWA, Dec. 28.—Sir James Grant, who visited the Queen at Balmoral four weeks ago, ridicules the statements in the New York papers respecting Her Majesty's disability. He says there is no appearance whatever of infirmity, and he thinks she is good for some years to wield the sceptre of the empire.

It is reported that Hon. Mr. Mulock, Postmaster-General, and his deputy, Colonel White, will be the Canadian delegates to the International Postal Union convention to be held in Washington next summer.

James Johnson, formerly commissioner of customs, died at San Francisco yesterday. He was a New Brunswicker by birth.

Nearly all the plans for the Bislely building show structures of a more pretentious character than the committee intended, and it is questioned whether any one set can be carried out for the amount fixed by the association, viz., \$7,500.

SPAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

New York, Dec. 28.—A Madrid special to the World says:

It is believed in diplomatic circles that Spain will take advantage of the disposition of President Cleveland and Secretary Olney to negotiate quickly and directly with the United States to secure American neutrality by granting discriminating concessions in the contemplated Cuban tariff and fair promises of colonial autonomy before the accession of McKinley.

It is rumored that General Weyler has delayed fresh operations against the insurgents in order to give time to discover the disposition of the United States chiefs since the death of Macco, with a view to feeling his way to preparing the ground for finishing the present Cuban war like the last insurrection in Spain and Cuba, where money and official negotiations proved more telling arguments than force of arms, as soon as the insurgents saw no more hope of foreign aid.

One of the principal reasons of the Spanish government for insisting upon Gen. Weyler making a decisive attempt to clear the provinces of Pinar del Rio, Havana and Matanzas within a few weeks is the urgent necessity for scoring a military success before Spain has time to appeal to the United States and foreign markets for fresh loans when she shall have exhausted the money obtained by the recent interior loan, which will be in March of next year.

At present the minister of the colonies disposes of this cash and Cuban bonds of the value of about \$50,000,000 only out of the proceeds of that loan. The expenses of the war in Cuba are \$12,000,000 monthly, and in the Philippines at least \$4,000,000. Up to the present time the Spanish treasury has assisted the Cuban treasury by guaranteeing advances made by foreign and native bankers upon Cuban bonds, and by pledging the sources of imperial revenue for the recent \$30,000,000 loan. The moment is fast approaching when the Spanish parliament and the Spanish taxpayers must be asked to provide in the shape of additional taxation \$26,000,000 annually for the interest and the sinking fund of \$250,000,000 thus raised, to meet only in part the expense of the Cuban war up to March, 1897, which the Cuban budget and the Cuban taxpayers could not possibly undertake to pay, even if the war were soon terminated, considering that their budgets showed deficits averaging \$5,000,000 annually before the present insurrection.

BLAIR ENTHUSIASTIC.

WINNIPEG, Dec. 28.—(Special)—Hon. A. G. Blair, Colonel Domville and party reached here to-day, en route home. Mr. Blair is enthusiastic over the mining prospects of British Columbia, and said that he had found the people throughout the West most hopeful.

The Brandon Times newspaper has been purchased by E. L. Christie, the Sun, of Brandon, has also changed hands.

James A. Smart and family left Brandon this morning for Brockville. He will at once assume an important position under the Dominion Government at Ottawa.

Mrs. Goodrich, wife of E. J. Goodrich of Headingly, died at the general hospital on Saturday from the effects of a fall into a cellar.

The current rumors to the effect that the Sultan's mine at Rat Portage had been sold for \$1,500,000 are premature. No deal has yet been consummated.

The Victoria Hockey team of Montreal and the first practice for the championship here this morning, and impressed the onlookers favorably by their work. Odds of 4 to 1 are asked by those wishing to back the Eastern men. There are no takers at that figure, but lots of money is offered on an even bet.

THROUGH THE CASCADES.

SEATTLE, Dec. 28.—H. C. Henry, the millionaire contractor, has secured a contract to build the approaches to the Great Northern railroad tunnel through the Cascade mountains. It will take six months to do the work and then everything will be ready to commence work on the track, which, it is said, will be one of the greatest engineering feats in history. The tunnel will be two and a half miles long.

AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—The hearings which the ways and means committee of the house will give to the representatives of various industries interested in the preparation of the new tariff bill began in the room of the committee at the Capitol to-day, and will continue daily until January 11. Much interest was manifested, and the room was constantly thronged with delegations and representatives of the various trades. Owing to the brief time allowed for hearings, and the desire of the committee to avoid unnecessary repetitions, many of those who appeared filed their briefs and made no oral arguments. The schedules upon which hearings were accorded to-day were those relating to chemicals and spirits and wines. Almost without exception all who appeared asked for an increase of duties on the particular industry in which they were interested. Almost all of those who appeared in behalf of changes in the tariff, except a change from ad valorem to specific duties.

No information has been received at either the treasury department or the department of justice respecting the unexpected filibuster of three friends, except the announcement of her seizure, nor have any special instructions been given to the local officials as to the legal course to be pursued. There is no doubt that the officials are not entirely satisfied with the way the business of presenting filibustering expeditions leaving American ports has been conducted, and it is believed that Assistant Secretary Wike, who is in Florida, will make it his business to investigate the whole matter. It is known that the Spanish representative here has made repeated complaints at the State department that some of the Government officers in Florida have money interests in some of the steamers engaged in violating the neutrality laws by carrying expeditions to Cuba. These complaints have been forwarded to the chief custom officers in Florida, and while the reports admit the fact of subordinates or members of their families having interests in some of the well known filibusters, it is claimed that the fact is not having, and has not had any influence upon the official acts of the subordinate officials. Whether the subordinates owing interests in these vessels will be required to resign, is not known, but if it is made to appear that any one of them is under reasonable suspicion, prompt action will be taken.

UNITED FOR PROTECTION.

BUFFALO, Dec. 28.—President C. W. Goodyear, of the Cincinnati Lumber Tariff Convention, is now on his way to Washington, where, with representatives of the lumber trade from all parts of the United States, he is opposing the proposed tariff on Canadian lumber. He is expected to arrive in Buffalo on Wednesday or Thursday, and urge that a tax be placed on Canadian lumber. In an interview, Mr. Goodyear said to-day: "There is need of more revenue, and as there is to be some tariff raising, we are going to ask for some protection from foreign lumber with incidental revenue, or for a tariff for revenue with incidental protection."

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 28.—Representatives of the lumber interests of the Northwest met on Saturday at the West hotel in conference with Congressman Towney, of the ways and means committee; Congressman Fletcher and Congressman-elect Morris, of the Sixth district, over the duty on lumber, which is to be made a part of the new tariff bill. In general, it seemed that a tax of \$2 on rough lumber was favored.

The meeting was attended by the officers and directors of the Minnesota Valley Lumbermen's Association in a body, in addition to a number of local lumbermen.

S. T. McKnight and T. B. Walker, of this city, will attend the hearing of the ways and means committee in Washington, which Congressman Towney announced for December 31, as representative of lumber interests of the Northwest.

The lumbermen propose an aggressive campaign to secure protection for their business and, after making Congressman Towney thoroughly familiar with the need of such legislation, demonstrated to him that they will make a strong fight before the committee for what they are after.

In working for legislation the lumber interests have never been so unitedly together as they are in the present case.

UNDER THE BAN.

QUEBEC, Dec. 28.—Le Soleil, the new French-Canadian Liberal paper which has taken the place of L'Electeur which has been placed under the ban, came out this morning. It was sent to all the subscribers of L'Electeur under another name. This shows the plan of campaign which the Catholic Liberals intend to inaugurate against the hierarchy. Should the bishop excommunicate Le Soleil they will drop that and immediately start another paper.

MONTREAL, Dec. 28.—The book recently published by L. O. David, a firm friend of Premier and city clerk of Montreal, on "The Canadian Clergy and Their Work," has, it is learned, been condemned by the papal court at Rome, to whom he submitted it as a protest against the adverse criticisms made by the Bishop of Chicoutimi and other Quebec prelates. The condemnation passed by the papal court will be read in the churches on Sunday next.

La Patrie publishes an article, written on a sick bed by its proprietor, Honore Beaugrand, headed "They Strike Pacaud, but Laurier is aimed at."

BACK FROM KOOTENAY.

TORONTO, Dec. 28.—(Special)—George H. Suckling, of this city, has just returned from spending six months in the Kootenay country and other mining districts of British Columbia. He says he estimates that the output of Kootenay alone will for the next five years average \$50,000,000, or more than the annual revenue of the Dominion government.

GERMANY AND TURKEY

A Secret Alliance Said to Have Been Formed—The Sultan Immobile.

His Mind Manifestly Made Up For Whatever the Future Brings.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—A special to the World from Washington says: The statement that a secret alliance exists between Germany and the Sultan of Turkey is made in a letter from Constantinople received by a prominent official of the State department. The letter was written by a high authority in the Turkish government, and explains that the alliance is for the purpose of thwarting Russian and English encroachments in the Sultan's dominions. The writer gives an insight into the present affairs of Turkey. After the great powers had sent through their ambassadors in Constantinople a collective note to the Sultan, insisting on his giving reforms, and on an absolute guarantee in the future for the lives and property of all his subjects; the Eastern question again became the great centre of European diplomacy. The Sultan gave his promise.

The sublime Porte entered on the reform with a cheerful spirit which surprised European. Garisons were established on the outskirts of the empire, and the whole country was placed under a practical military rule. The sublime Porte removed governors and lesser officials of the empire, and in their place those conversant with the usual bewildering delays in Eastern diplomacy. An amnesty was promised towards Armenian prisoners, and over 1,800 of them have already been set at liberty.

England, France and Russia were not, however, absolutely confident of the Sultan's perseverance in this work. Sir Philip Currie, the English ambassador, intimated to the minister of foreign affairs that England, although pleased with what has been done, was not without misgivings as to the Sultan's ability to carry out his reforms. It was feared that the Sultan would not be strong enough to ensure the permanent enforcement of these measures. It was, therefore, desirable, he said, that those powers which had a vested interest in the Sultan's empire, namely, England, France and Russia, should have a written guarantee on the subject. To agree to this proposal would mean that Turkey would tacitly consent to a protectorate, comprising all the territory of the Sultan, and the Sultan would be virtually at the mercy of the triumvirate.

The sublime porte was much disturbed by Sir Philip's statement, and for a time it was believed that English diplomacy would win. Suddenly the Sultan assumed a defensive attitude. Sir Philip was informed that the sublime porte would continue the reforms on the lines which had been laid down, but that it would be unable to guarantee the life and property to all its subjects, and that any further assurances was deemed unnecessary.

It is not generally known in Constantinople that the latter said that Abdul Hamid acted on instructions received from the German government, and no little chagrin is felt among the supporters of the English, Russian and French plans. Diplomats there, according to the writer, are now recalling that a year and a half ago Emperor William of Germany visited the Sultan at Constantinople with extravagant honors. It was hinted then that perhaps a secret treaty had been formed between the two monarchs to prevent both Russian and English encroachments.

The Sultan, according to the letter, while not yet completely reassured that he will be left in peaceful control of his empire, is nevertheless confident of his ability to prevent both Russian and English encroachments. The conclusion of the negotiations between the two monarchs is that the great Christian nations can not afford to become embroiled with each other. Russia, least of all, hemmed in as she is on all sides by enemies, cannot afford the luxury of war, much as she desires to see the Sultan's empire in such an event it would not be a question of the dismemberment of Turkey, but of the dismemberment of Russia.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 29.—M. Nelidoff, the Russian ambassador, on Saturday, acting in concert with the representatives of Great Britain, France, Italy, Germany and Austria, had an audience with the Sultan, one of many such interviews within the past two years on the same subject, concerning the better administration of the affairs of the Turkish empire. The Russian diplomat began by warning the Sultan and the Turkish government that if the revenues ceased for the payments of the Turkish debt were touched, European control of the finances of the empire would become inevitable. Nelidoff further informed the Sultan that the Czar guaranteed the Sultan's personal safety and engaged himself to maintain the Sultan's supremacy in the event of severe measures being necessary upon the part of the powers. The Sultan, however, remained obtuse, refusing to consent to any measure of control, financial or otherwise, by the powers, and he said that the Russian ambassador said the condition of the Turkish empire placed the throne and the caliphate in imminent peril. Thereupon Abdul Hamid remarked that he would be the last of my calliphs, but I will never become a second khedive.

In addition to these warnings M. Nelidoff sent a note to the Turkish government and to the palace, to which the utmost significance is attached in diplomatic circles. He pointed out in precise terms the necessity of the Sultan following the advice of the powers and making a complete agreement with their

plans for improving the situation, warning that once passed the Sultan's refusal would involve the most disagreeable consequences.

The ambassadors of the powers will meet again to discuss the situation, and will assemble in future twice a week until they complete their recommendations to the Sultan and his advisers. The envoys acting together will henceforth maintain the strictest secrecy regarding their deliberations and the actions contemplated, and will not even inform the envoys of the other powers of the decisions reached.

These latest steps upon the part of the powers are once again reported to have produced a profound impression, and in pursuance of the issuance of the amnesty decree Armenian prisoners in Asia Minor and in this city and vicinity are being released daily in batches of fifteen.

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Comptroller of the Currency Eckels said this afternoon that he feels no apprehension over the bank failures which have occurred of late. Two more failures—the Commercial National Bank of Roanoke, Va., and the Columbia National of Minneapolis—were added to the list to-day. They are comparatively small institutions, however, and, under ordinary circumstances, their failures, it is said, would attract only passing attention. Mr. Eckels, when asked to-day as to the general banking situation, said: "Of course, bank failures are more or less disquieting, but those which have occurred recently have little or no general significance attached to them. They are due largely to local causes, wholly unconnected with the general condition of the banks through the country at large. The case of the Atlas bank was not a failure at all, but was a voluntary liquidation, every depositor being paid in full. The two failures to-day are of minor importance. Reports received under the last call, that of December 17, are uniformly favorable and show a more than 25 per cent. required by law."

ORIENTAL LINERS.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 28.—The steamship Peru arrived from Honolulu and Yokohama. Although these ports have been declared infested the steamer was not quarantined on arrival here as she had a clean bill of health.

Yokohama merchants have applied to the government for charters for two new steamship lines, one to run from Hongkong to San Francisco and the other between Yokohama and San Francisco via the Cape of Good Hope.

The China Gazette states that a severe famine prevails in Chann Tung Szecung province owing to the disastrous floods, which ruined the crops. There have been many lives lost.

One of the Koreans who was recently arrested at Seoul on the charge of attempting to restore the King to the palace from the Russian legation, where His Majesty is now seeking shelter, is reported to have been executed without trial.

BURIED IN A BOG.

DUBLIN, Dec. 28.—A family of ten persons and a number of cattle at the Donnelly place were engulfed by the subsiding of a bog of a hundred acres near Castle island, County Kerry. No trace was left of them. It is stated that other persons were drowned at the same time and place.

The subsidence of the bog proves to have been a most extraordinary affair. There were terrible storms throughout the night and about 3 o'clock in the morning the people of the district were alarmed by an unusual rumbling which they feared was caused by an earthquake. The bog, which was believed to be 30 feet deep and which had long supplied the whole neighborhood with peat, was moved several miles along an old water course, filling a quarry 30 feet deep, according to the reports of the country with peaty water and doing a great deal of damage.

THE ELOPING PRINCESS.

BUDA PESTH, Dec. 29.—The presence here of Princess de Carnarnan-Chimay, who eloped from Paris with the Hungarian prince, Gygo, has caused a sensation in certain circles. The princess yesterday received a delegation of members of the press, to whom she spoke in the freest manner. She declared that it was incorrect to suggest that her husband, a Belgian nobleman of French extraction, had behaved in an ungentlemanly manner toward her. On the contrary, she insisted that the prince had always conducted himself as a gentleman.

MRS. HENRY WARD BECHER.

STAMFORD, CONN., Dec. 29.—The condition of Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher, whose hip was broken by a fall sustained on Sunday morning at the residence of her son-in-law Rev. Samuel Scoville, is still serious. Her attending physician, Dr. Samuel Pearson, states that there is no immediate danger; but in view of her advanced age the chances for her recovery are about even.

FIGHTING IN THE PHILIPPINES.

MADRID, Dec. 29.—Private advices received from Manila, the capital of the Philippine islands, say that a conspiracy against the Spanish government has been discovered in the province of Bulacan. Many notables have been arrested and a quantity of ammunition and arms has been seized. In an engagement between the Spaniards and the insurgents the latter are said to have lost 18 men.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

BACK FROM VENEZUELA.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Senor Jose Andrade, Venezuelan minister to the United States, accompanied by Mr. James J. Storrow, counsel for Venezuela before the United States boundary commission, arrived in this city this afternoon on board the steamer Caracas, and left for Washington to-night. Minister Andrade was met at the pier by the Venezuelan consul and some of the attaches of his office. When asked if the reports which have been printed in reference to the boundary treaty were acceptable to the Venezuelan government, the minister said: "I have written and telegraphed all that I have to say, and I understand it has been published in your papers. I cannot say any more on this question."

He was then asked if it were true that he had come empowered by President Onesto to signify the acceptance of the treaty by Venezuela and he replied: "That is a matter I cannot discuss." He also said that there was no sign of disturbance in Venezuela, everything was very peaceful, and he did not anticipate any trouble when the Venezuelan congress would meet. When pressed to say something more about the treaty, he showed the reporters a copy of a Venezuelan newspaper which, he said, expressed his views on the matter. This paper, the Venezuelan Herald, had several articles on the treaty and the following is an extract from one of them:

"Minister Andrade is going to Washington and takes with him a copy of the agreement. It is in all essential particulars the same treaty as was offered by Venezuela, forty years ago, to Great Britain, which Great Britain refused. Under the fifty years clause, the only territory which Great Britain will have are the settlements between the Essequibo and Pomeroon rivers. The fifty years clause will exclude the Orinoco country and the Cuyunir river, which is the portion of the country that Venezuela has been especially desirous of keeping.

"Unwarranted attacks have been made on the government, but they are based on no solid arguments and it surprises us not a little to see such a rumor everything has been settled. The United States has been the friend and representative of Venezuela—to put it exactly, through its friend the United States, Venezuela has accepted the treaty."

Mr. Storrow was also disinclined to talk of the boundary question, but said that the treaty was satisfactory to the Venezuelans. He said that there were one or two correspondents who attacked the treaty in the papers, but to use his own words, "they went off half-cocked." When the more intelligent and better class of people read the memoranda, several articles were published in the papers, two of them by former ministers of England, and public opinion was reformed. He claimed that people are well satisfied with the treaty and consider it about the best arrangement that could be made. He said that President Onesto's feeling in regard to the American government was most kindly, and he referred to the letter written by President Crespo to President Cleveland, thanking him for the interest the Americans had taken in Venezuelan matters. Mr. Storrow said it was nonsense for any person to say there was a chance for a revolution in Venezuela. He denied that there was any possibility of an outbreak, and said that had there been any likelihood of such a thing he would not have come away.

EIGHT YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

HAVANA, Dec. 26.—To-day the united tribunal, which judges the proceedings against Julio Sanguilla, a naturalized American citizen, charged with conspiracy against the Spanish government, met for the first time after an adjournment of the Christmas holidays. The judge decided that Sanguilla was guilty of modified qualifications of the crime of which he was accused and sentenced him to 8 years and 1 day imprisonment. The sentence will be published on Monday.

Julio Sanguilla was arrested with thirty others, including members of well known families of Havana, and confined to Morro castle. An attempt was made to rescue him by court-martial, but through the efforts of Consul Williams his citizenship was established and he was given a civil trial. The prosecution attempted to prove that Sanguilla was the head of a local conspiracy and the chief resident instigator of the insurgent movement, and that he had been especially appointed by Jose Marti to assume command of the forces of Santa Clara, which were expected to rise against Spain.

SENTENCED FOR LIFE.

HAVANA, Dec. 28.—Julio Sanguilla, the American citizen who was arrested in 1895, charged with conspiring against the government, and who was sentenced by court-martial to life imprisonment, appealed and obtained a civil trial which has been going on for some time past. To-day he was formally sentenced to imprisonment for life, to pay half the expenses of the trial, and was subsequently declared insolvent. Sanguilla's lawyer has entered an appeal to the Supreme Tribunal of Abrogation on the ground of errors in the evidence, in the proceedings and on the law bearing on the prisoner's case.

TROUBLED SOUTH AFRICA.

CAPE TOWN, Dec. 26.—It is reported that the rebels, led by whites belonging to the Cape Town volunteers, have mobilized the burghers, and the districts are now under arms. Replying to a telegram from Gordon Spring, premier of Cape Colony, regarding the advisability of despatching the volunteers to the Bechuanaland border, the Transvaal government has wired expressing the hope that measures will be taken to prevent the violation of the Transvaal boundary, which is now being guarded on the Transvaal side. This despatch from the Transvaal government is such that this is done for the purpose of preventing misunderstanding.

KENTUCKY LYNCHINGS.

OWENSBORO, Ky., Dec. 26.—Seven men in the last week have met death at the hands of mobs in Kentucky. Since last Saturday Henry Finley was called to his door and shot to death by a mob of masked men two days before the Proctors, three in number, made the victims of a mob in Logan County. Two were hanged and the other was shot in his cell upon his resisting the mob. On Sunday night Jim Stone was lynched at Mayfield after a pledge guaranteeing his safety had been made by the citizens. Tuesday night Will Sutt, a negro boy, was shot to death at Mayfield.

MAJORITY NOMINATIONS.

TORONTO, Dec. 28.—(Special)—Mayorality nominations in Ontario for municipal offices took place to-day in this city. The candidates for mayor are Messrs. G. A. McDonald, Fleming and McMurrich. The mayorality candidates in other cities are: Belleville, Ald. T. W. Johnston; Kingston, Ald. Behen; St. Skimmer, London, J. Title and John McParson; Hamilton, Mayor Tuckett and Ald. Colquhoun; Guelph, James Hewer, R. E. Nelson, T. B. Coffee and B. Colmer; St. Thomas, Ald. E. Wright and S. Chant.

A TOTAL FAILURE.

St. JOHN'S, Nfld., Dec. 26.—An official report to the government says that the herring fishery at Fortune bay, mainly undertaken by American vessels is a total failure, and that thousands of people along the harbour in the vicinity of where the herring are usually caught are threatened with starvation. It is estimated that about 4,000 people are injuriously affected and that most of the number will become a burden upon the colony.

SOMETHING IMPORTANT.

MONTREAL, Dec. 28.—Over five hundred tickets have been disposed of for the Laurier banquet at the Windsor hotel. It is said the Premier's address will dwell chiefly on the tariff and the Manitoba school settlement, and it is likewise held that Mr. Greenway will say something important.

INTERCOLLEGIATE CHESS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—The yearly chess tournament between Yale, Harvard, Princeton and Columbia teams began to-day. The prize sought is the University cup valued at \$5,000, which has been won twice by Columbia and Harvard.

NEWS OF THE DOMINION.

(Special to the Colonist.)
COLBORN, Dec. 28.—A. Chapin, for many years a cabinet manufacturer and undertaker here, died here suddenly to-day, in his seventieth year.

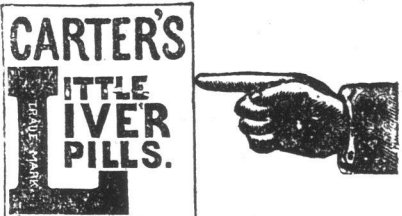
BRANTFORD, Dec. 28.—At a meeting of Conservative delegates held on Saturday night Robert Henry, the late member for South Brant in the House of Commons was unanimously re-nominated for election trial opened here to-day before Judges Ferguson and Robertson. No evidence was offered and the petition was withdrawn, each party paying their own costs. This sustains Mr. Craig, Conservative, in his seat.

OTTAWA, Dec. 26.—The Dominion government have decided to pay the expense of the nine adults and thirteen juveniles who emigrated to Brazil and who are now on their way to Liverpool by steamer, having been sent forward by the British consul in the hope that either the British government or the Dominion government would look after them. On reaching Liverpool they will be sent to Canada by the High Commissioner. The Canadian government hopes that the experience of these Canadians will be such as to prevent others from leaving their homes in the same way.

Chicago now has a real Chinese paper, the Chinese News, published by Wong Chin Foo, who, according to the Fourth Estate, "is the most noted Chinaman in the country when it comes to fame as a writer, author, and generally progressive Celestial."

Copenhagen is to have an elevated railroad run along the coast from the city to the woods at Charlottend. The motive power will be electricity or compressed air.

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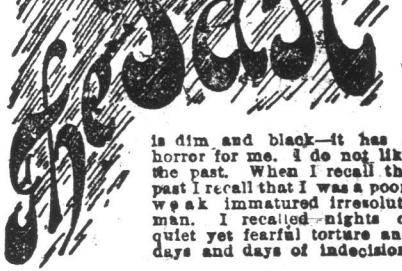
CURE SICK HEADACHE

Sick Headache and relieve all the troubles incident to a bilious state of the system, such as Dizziness, Nausea, Drowsiness, Distress after eating, Pain in the Side, &c. &c. by their most remarkable success has been shown in curing...

ACHE

is the bane of so many lives that very often we make our great hostess feel very ill while others do not.

Small Pill. Small Dose. Small Price.



that was before I used the medicine of the Hudson Medical Institute...

that Hudson is a most wonderful rejuvenator. It is a power. It cures certain cases of nervous debility, nervous exhaustion, &c.

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INTERVENTION IN CUBA

European Opposition by No Means Unlikely to Any Action by the United States.

Spain Favored by the Pope—The Siberian Railway—Bubonic Plague in Bombay.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—The Paris correspondent of the Times this morning renews his surmises regarding opposition by the European powers to intervention by the United States in Cuba. He says: "The Austrian court and government have long been uneasy over the attitude of American jingoism towards Spain, and such uneasiness has long been the subject of diplomatic talks. The queen regent of Spain is one of the most beloved princesses of the Austrian house. The love and respect she has won from the Spaniards have strengthened the affections reserved for her own family and there will be no hesitation in demonstrating the fact whenever it comes to a question of defending the interests of a country whose honor she protects with unimpaired enthusiasm, and which has become dear to her as if she had been born on its soil."

"It would be tactless," adds Le Temps, "to spoil the situation by explicitly suggesting to the Madrid cabinet steps apparently dictated by their own interests and the glory of the country. It would be more opportune to use towards Washington discreetly, in behalf of the whole of Europe, language calculated to confirm President Cleveland and Mr. Olney's good intentions and to give valuable hints to Mr. McKinley and his Secretary of State."

The Chronicle suggests that M. de Blowitz' unfounded statements of Saturday that the government had made representations to Washington protesting against intervention in Cuba, may have originated in one of the periodical perturbations of the German Emperor concerning the affairs of the world, "which," says the Chronicle, "falling a better government be takes under his care. We believe that the French foreign office has been sounded in regard to Cuba in an anti-American sense, but anything like concerted action on such a subject is out of the question."

The Chronicle has a Rome despatch which says: "Spain has questioned England, France and Italy as to their attitude in the event of war between Spain and the United States. France and England replied indirectly that everything depends on the course of events. Italy offers to assist in producing an amicable arrangement, without promising to support Spain against the United States. The Vatican absolutely forbids the Spaniards to sign a separate letter to the Pope, asking for his prayers for the success of the Spanish arms."

The bubonic plague is increasing in Bombay. There have been 2,094 cases and 1,494 deaths from that cause up to this date. The exodus from the city of Bombay continues, and the newspapers threaten the natives with martial law unless they conform to sanitary regulations.

It is announced to-day that the Turkish budget estimates for 1897 show that the assets exceed the expenditures by £82,000 Turkish. This result has been brought about by reducing the military estimates to £1,000,000 Turkish, by making economies in other departments and by an increase in taxes.

The constructor of the Siberian railway undertakes to build a line through Manchuria, starting from a point on the river where the Siberian road joins the trans-Baikal line, and terminating at Nikolskaya, south of the Ussuwa line. Of this proposed new line 1,425 out of a total of 10,920 acres are in Chinese territory. The Russian ministerial press points out that this line will make Russia the intermediary of peaceful civilization between Europe and Asia.

M. Helanzier Dufresne, formerly director of the Paris opera, has been an officer of the Legion of Honor.

THE CASE OF DELGADO. WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Secretary Olney to-day received a report from the United States consul at Havana, regarding the case of Henry Delgado, into whose capture and confinement by the Spanish authorities, the secretary ordered an investigation. The secretary subsequently made the following public statement: "It appears from a report of the U. S. consul at Havana that Mr. Delgado was made a prisoner by the Spanish troops in the course of military operations in the province of Pinar del Rio, that he is reported to be in the hands of the staff of the insurgent Major-General Maceo and to have been in command of artillery, and that a letter to Maceo and one from Maceo to the Prefect of Las Lunbas were found on his person. It being reported to the consul that Delgado is a native born American citizen, all the rights to which he is entitled under our treaty with Spain and subsequent protocols have been claimed for him. Mr. Delgado is confined in the military hospital of San Ambrosio, outside of Havana. The rights spoken of in the statement consist of trial by the ordinary judicial authorities, unless the prisoner is taken with arms; or he must be tried by council of war or court martial."

LAURIER AND "L'ELECTEUR." MONTREAL, Dec. 29.—(Special)—Premier Laurier arrived in the city last evening, and it is expected that he will make an important deliverance at the banquet to-morrow night in regard to the mandement of the bishops of Quebec placing L'Electeur under the ban. It was learned that a meeting of the Liberal chiefs had been called to meet in the city of Quebec on January 7 to discuss the situation and all the present of the province will be present.

IN SPLENDID SHAPE.

ROSSLAND, Dec. 29.—The Rossland Miner will say to-morrow: The Iron Miner is again itself. It has plenty of ore and good ore now in all directions. The first work on the mine consisted of a shaft near the west end of the claim adjoining the War Eagle sunk to a depth of ninety feet with two to six feet of shipping ore all the way. Last spring the War Eagle No. 3 tunnel was started on another vein crossing on the Iron Mine on center's gulch. As this vein did not run in a right direction the tunnel left it and was driven straight for a point underneath the shaft above referred to. This point was reached in an editorial manner, the shaft being started to connect with the bottom of the shaft, which was 110 feet above. Until to-day no ore was found. The whole upraise is now in ore of the same appearance and quality as that found in the Rossland mine. It carries about 8 per cent. copper and \$60 per ton in gold.

At the same time a shaft which had been sunk to a depth of 150 feet at the mouth of the long tunnel in an editorial manner, the shaft being started to connect with the bottom of the shaft, which was 110 feet above. Until to-day no ore was found. The whole upraise is now in ore of the same appearance and quality as that found in the Rossland mine. It carries about 8 per cent. copper and \$60 per ton in gold.

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NEWS OF THE PROVINCE

Vancouver's Municipal League—Mining in Kootenay—Proposed Smelter at the Terminal City.

Presentation to Rev. H. H. Gowen—Housebreaking at Nanaimo—Seaw Life.

(Special to the Colonist.)

VANCOUVER, Dec. 30.—Mr. Fred G. McCullough, lately in the employment of Mr. Robert Clark of Carrall street, who was taken ill with an affection of the lungs on Saturday died on Sunday. He was a member of the Vancouver Operatic & Dramatic Society. Mr. McCullough was a great favorite with all who knew him.

Mr. C. D. Taprell, manager of the Hotel Vancouver, has been presented with a cane by some of the guests of the house. The cane supplied by Mr. G. E. Trorey, is made of wood taken from the pioneer steamer Beaver, surmounted with a very handsome gold head, on which is engraved "Presented to C. D. Taprell by a few Commercial Travellers, Xmas, 1896."

A freight train which left Vancouver on Saturday met with a slight accident near North Bend, several cars being derailed. Very little damage was done, and no one was hurt. The train was only delayed for a very short time.

A meeting of the municipal league of Ward 4 was held on Monday evening in the ball room at the Market hall. The nominations for the vacant positions were made and an address delivered by Alderman Banfield, chairman of the finance committee and candidate for the Mayoralty. A public meeting of the electors will be held in the Market hall on Saturday morning when the nomination of the electors will be held.

Mr. R. Marpole, superintendent of the Pacific division of the C.P.R., was in the city yesterday, leaving in his private car by the Eastbound train. Mr. Marpole has recently returned from Montreal, whither he went on business connected with the proposed purchase of the boats of the Columbia & Kootenay Navigation Company, plying between Revelstoke and Nelson. Mr. Marpole expressed himself to a Colonist reporter as being fully alive to the importance of the C.P.R. of securing the best possible means of communication with the Kootenay country, and says that the volume of business being done with the mining cities exceeds even his highest expectations, although he has always realized the possibilities of that region.

The car leaving Westminister at eight o'clock yesterday morning met with a slight accident, the engine and a few cars being derailed. No one was injured, and a fifteen-minute delay was the only result.

The members of the local Masonic lodge held their annual banquet at the Hotel Vancouver last night, when about 150 members were present. Mount Hermon, Cascade and Acadia lodges participated, and a royal good time was enjoyed. Mr. Lacey K. Johnson presided at the banquet. The Grand Lodge, and the "Newly-installed Officers" called forth speeches from Messrs. Cowperthwaite, Henderson and Charles Wilson, and Revs. H. C. Mason and L. N. Tucker.

At the meeting of the city council on Monday night a communication was read from Professor Hill-Tout requesting that the Public Library act, 1891, be put in force. After some discussion, the question of placing a by-law before the council, giving the control of the library to an independent board was referred to the finance committee. It is probable more will be heard of the matter during the municipal campaign.

Tramps sleeping in box cars in the C.P.R. yards were complained of by the master mechanic, and the Chief of Police stated that five tramps had been arrested for that offence on Sunday night.

Lieut.-Col. Townley has written suggesting that the city council express themselves favorably to an amendment being made in the law permitting exemption from poll tax in favor of active members of the militia force. The matter was referred to the finance committee.

The hold-up scare has been the subject of inquiry in the city council as to the activity of the police force, the chairman of the committee stating that he thought the scare would soon be over as the province's trustees were confirmed, and the chief was in communication with the detective agencies in the city. The members of the chain gang are to be worked harder, and will probably be put to breaking stones, and the men who had held that the easy times they had were calculated to induce them to stay in the city rather than leave. A motion that a reward of \$100 be offered for the detection of a highwayman found no second.

John McDowell, of Vancouver, and from Dunsuir district, Messrs. A. Spencer and Thomas Leelan, of this city, registered the Elk Horn claim.

William Jones, who has served three months here for theft, and two years in Victoria for burglary was sent down for three years for house breaking, having robbed the house of Elijah Priest in this city. Arthur S. Appleby at the same time got two concurrent terms of three years for a similar offence. Appleby claims to be just out from England.

(From the Golden Era.) It is not generally known that mining work is going on near Beaver. About one mile south of the station, Messrs. Neilson and Downie of Beaver and Donald respectively, have made a location, which has the appearance of something which may come to better things. This is the opinion expressed by Mr. Leake, who was last week engaged by the owners to report on the property.

(From the Kootenian.) Reports from the Noble Five Consolidated Mining and Milling Company are that the various preparatory works in which the company is engaged are nearing completion. It is expected that the entire work on concentrator and tramway will be completed and everything in running order by the 20th of January. Men from 45 to 50 men are employed at the mines in developing new ore bodies, so that the quantity produced may be ample when the works are started.

A great crowd of people gathered on the bridge street yesterday attracted to the fact of the chain gang being engaged clearing up some of the vacant lots. The work was of a harder nature than the gang had ever before been compelled to perform, and it is hoped the effect will be to rid the city of the residents who have looked upon the duties of the

TRAIL CREEK.

(From the Trail Creek News.) The incorporators of the Lookout Mountain Mining Company met Wednesday and elected officers for the coming year. Charles Dundee was chosen president; William Claffy, vice-president; R. T. Daniels, secretary and treasurer; George Naden assistant secretary. The company is now in good shape and the Joker property, which this company is working, has been incorporated for a million and a quarter under the Imperial act of 1882. This property will be continuously developed until it is a paying mine. The shaft is now sunk to a depth of 145 feet and it will go 100 feet before crosscutting.

Thomas Alexander has come down from Deer Park to spend Christmas. He has been developing Deer Park properties for the past three months, and has some very fine samples of ore. He will return after the holidays. Inquiries are being made for properties in the Burnt Pass district, on the opposite side of the lake, twelve miles above Robson.

Ralph White is home from Salmon Siding, where he went to examine the Silver Queen. He reports the snow very deep, and a hard trip on snow shoes. He says work is progressing nicely on all properties in that locality.

The Cable and Tenbroek claims on Whiskey creek, running into the north fork of the Salmon, and owned by Charles Ross, have a splendid 3 1/2-foot vein of ore in sight. A shaft 35 feet has been sunk. These two claims join the Arlington and Canadian King and are good properties.

Messrs. Potter, Brown and Wise are operating on the Big Four group at Slocan crossing. They have two tunnels, one in 18 feet and the other 25 feet, and have struck ore assaying \$18 to the ton in gold. Work will be continuous and present prospects are encouraging.

Details in relation to the purchase by the C.P.R. of the Columbia & Kootenay Steam Navigation Company's boats indicate that the deal includes all boats now plying on the Columbia river between Northport and Arrowhead and on Kootenay lake. Formal possession is to be given February 1, 1897.

Chase and Sullivan are working the Birmingham adjoining the Big Four group, and have a very good showing. Bruce Craddock and J. Dawson have purchased a half interest in the California and Anchor, and will work all winter. These two claims are at Slocan crossing on the Kootenay river, between Nelson and Robson.

The Red Bird and Silver Queen at Salmon siding will change hands next week. An Eastern syndicate is after the property and negotiations are about closed.

CHINA CREEK. ALBERTA, Dec. 26.—The superintendent and men employed on the Duke of York assembled at their boarding house yesterday to celebrate Christmas. After a bounteous repast provided by Mrs. Watson, to whom valuable assistance was rendered by all the ladies resident in the Duke of York camp, the tables were removed and an enjoyable programme rendered, Mr. Miles being chairman, and an orchestra composed of George Carman, violinist; James Munro, Walter Harris and Thomas Grievos, pipers, rendering valuable assistance. After the programme, dancing was indulged in until the wee small hours, a vote of thanks to the hostess and chairman concluding the proceedings.

Not the least interesting information obtained by the census enumeration is the disclosure of the fact that six hundred and thirty scows are now on the Fraser river within the city limits.

(From the Golden Era.) It is not generally known that mining work is going on near Beaver. About one mile south of the station, Messrs. Neilson and Downie of Beaver and Donald respectively, have made a location, which has the appearance of something which may come to better things. This is the opinion expressed by Mr. Leake, who was last week engaged by the owners to report on the property.

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Thanksgiving Letter.

Saved From Certain Death. Paine's Celery Compound Renews Another Life. Twelve Years Work of Medical Men Did Not Effect a Cure. Kidney Disease Surely and Permanently Banished by Paine's Celery Compound.

A terrible record of suffering and misery! Twelve years a martyr to kidney disease and other serious ailments! Money spent for medical attendance and a vast variety of patent medicines, and no cure! Such disappointments and failures added to physical and mental agonies were sufficient to drive many a sufferer to the verge of insanity.

Deliverance from suffering and disease was long and earnestly prayed for, and a kind Providence directed a friend of the suffering lady to advise her to make trial of Paine's Celery Compound. It was used. There were no blank disappointments; no vain experiments; no waste of hard earned money. Relief and cure came to gladden the soul. Mrs. George Stone, of Eganville, Ont., writes about her case as follows:

"For more than twelve years I was afflicted with kidney, stomach and female troubles, and had been attended by five doctors, and tried medicine after medicine, without any good results.

"My sufferings a year ago from the kidneys and stomach were dreadful. I was in such a state that I thought I could not live, and concluded there was no use trying other medicines.

"I was advised, however, to try Paine's Celery Compound and finally decided to give it a fair trial. Before I had finished the first bottle I had improved very much, and after the use of a few more bottles I had not been so well for long years, and am now altogether a different person. The use of Paine's Celery Compound also banished my nervousness. I can therefore recommend Paine's Celery Compound to any one suffering from kidney, stomach and female troubles."

A Chronicle despatch from Berlin reports that Dr. Behring, the discoverer of anti-toxine for diphtheria, has married the daughter of a Spinola, the director of the Charity hospital.

Advertisement for various medicines and products including 'RH! Cure', 'Hibben & Co's Establishment', 'JOHN JAMESON & SONS' WHISKY', and 'BROWNE'S DYNE'.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

City Engineer Reports That His Recommendations Last Year Were Not Carried Out.

That is the Reason He Gives for the Present Trouble at Lansdowne Road.

Last night's city council meeting was an uneventful one, with very little discussion, so that the business went along smoothly enough and was all disposed of by half-past nine.

From Mr. R. P. Rithet, M.P.P., an acknowledgment was received of the council's resolutions in favor of an Admiralty House. Mr. Rithet said he would be glad to do all that he could to help the project, and asked for some further information upon the subject.

A. F. Barham and F. B. Pemberton both wrote complaints of obstructions on Beacon and St. Andrew's streets, and Mr. Barham mentioned in his letter that someone had poisoned his dog.

ALD. THARNS suggested that the letters be referred to the police commissioners, but the Mayor did not think that was the proper course.

Some discussion arose as to whether the streets spoken of were city property or not. Finally the question was tabled and the aldermen to obtain the City Solicitor's opinion on the subject.

The following report from the City Engineer made somewhat interesting reading, as in effect it stated that when the Lansdowne road was repaired a year ago his suggestions as to how the work should be done were not carried out:

December 28, 1896. GENTLEMEN—With regard to the subject-matter of a communication referred to in the report of the streets committee, calling attention to the dangerous state of the Lansdowne road, etc., I beg to enclose herewith my report of September 19, 1895, bearing on that subject, as follows:

"In compliance with a resolution passed by the council on the 18th inst. to the effect that the city engineer be requested to furnish the council with a report as to what he considers the best method of dealing with the open watercourse on Lansdowne road, with an estimate of the cost of carrying out the work."

"I have the honor to report that I examined the site referred to, and, in my opinion, the best way to deal with the matter, having due regard to economy and efficiency, would be to plank over the watercourse, the planking to rest on caps 4 feet by 6 inches, extending across the top of the watercourse, supported by posts well sunk into the ground, leaving a width for the waterway of 5 feet 6 inches, the posts to be spaced up for a height of 3 feet from the bottom of the watercourse, and thus confine the channel and prevent the water from cutting away the earth from the sides. This would avert danger to the public, and that place and prevent the water from cutting into the road. Estimated cost, \$360.

The work as carried out under the direction of the then chairman of the streets committee, differed from that recommended in not having posts under the scantling laid across the watercourse. As a consequence, the platform is not sufficiently strong to safely support the weight of the street cars, which are liable to drive upon it when passing in opposite directions, on account of the narrowness of the road, and as the water has not been confined in a channel by boarding as suggested, it has in several places cut into the banks. As a temporary method to guard against accident, directions have been given to put in longer cross pieces where required, and erect a railing alongside, to prevent teams from going upon the platform.

(Sd.) E. A. WILMOT, City Engineer.

ALD. HUMPHREY said that last year when he as chairman of the street committee examined the place there was no sign of cutting, and it had never been intended to allow teams to go on the sidewalk.

ALD. MACMILLAN said the reason the whole of the Engineer's suggestions were not carried out last year was because there were not funds enough.

The report was referred to the streets committee to act.

Another report from the City Engineer recommended the replacing of the wooden box drain on Princess street with vitrified brick at a cost of \$1,000; also that a pipe drain replace the wooden box drain from Park road to the convent grounds.

As there are no funds available for the work, the report was laid on the table.

Another report was from the cemetery committee, recommending that instead of the present method of caring for the cemetery a better mode would be to employ three men in the summer months and two men for the rest of the year. This was referred to the cemetery committee to report.

A minority report, signed by Ald. Williams, was read, recommending that the Legislature be asked to have the Municipal Act amended so as to exempt mill-tiamen from the revenue and school tax.

ALD. MARCHANT objected to this report, as the majority of the committee were preparing another report, and Ald. Williams' report was considered out of order.

After passing the resolution fixing on the police court room as the polling place for school trustee elections, the council adjourned.

FURS AND SKINS.

In their circular dated Minneapolis, December 18, Messrs. McMillan & Co., exporters of furs, hides, wool, etc., say: "The receipts of furs are increasing as the season advances. The market is dull for most kinds, because this season's business is over, and the American manufacturers have not had much trade, consequently the bulk of the furs, as has been the case for several years, will have to be placed in Europe. Next week is the last week that shipping furs can be sent abroad to go into the January London sales, and we hope those of our shippers who have some on hand will send them along at once. This sale will govern the prices of furs in Europe, although not all kinds will be offered as they will be in the March sale. On account of the increased offerings, March prices may be lower than January, the same as they were last year. Most furs now being received are prime and grade No. 1. Furs caught in October and early November grade Nos. 2 and 3; those taken earlier No. 4. Mink are generally the best when trapped in December. Badger when caught early grade low and are about worthless; in fact, do not as a rule grade No. 1 until trapped after coming out of their dens in the spring. Muskrat caught in October grade as fall, Minnesota and Dakota fall rat run 30 to 40 per cent. kits; Wisconsin rats, a less per cent.; but the per cent. decreases as the season advances. Prime furs are red or white on the flesh side; uprime, blue or black. The furs in poorest demand are badger, beaver, wild cat, lynx and wolf."

THE PUPILS OF CEDAR HILL SCHOOL had their annual Christmas entertainment a few evenings ago.

THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE will, it is expected, meet for the dispatch of business on February 8.

A PAPER ON A CHINESE CALENDAR found at Dove Creek, Cassiar, in 1883 was read before the Natural History Society last night by Mr. James Deane.

THE HANDSOME SILVER CUP which was awarded to British Columbia by the Spokane Fruit Fair has been received at the Department of Agriculture where it is to be secured for the present and placed in possession of the Fruit Growers' Association.

AT WELL ATTENDED MEETING of the Island Mount Quartz Mining Milling Co. yesterday morning, the agreement was confirmed transferring to the Island Mountain Gold Mines (Ltd.), of London, England, the property and assets of the first named company.

THE SERVICES IN THE various city churches on Sunday were largely attended both morning and evening, the special services being especially enjoyed. Christmas anthems and carols appear perhaps more strongly than any other to churchgoers, and few cared to miss the joyous services.

THE MEMBERS OF THE Y.W.C.A. yesterday decided to assist the Y.M.C.A. at their reception on New Year's Day. "Bigiolets" and the introduction of Bridal Chorus from Wagner's "Lohengrin." The concert is under the patronage of the Lieut.-Governor.

THE CHAMPION FIELD GUN detachment of No. 1 Company, Fifth Regiment, have been photographed for the purpose of sending the picture and the record to the Navy and Army Illustrated.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT arrangements will soon be completed for the employment of a qualified instructor in the Drill hall gymnasium.

THE NEW COMMANDING OFFICER and the adjutant are giving things a general overhauling in connection with the interior economy of the First Battalion.

BIG GUN PRACTICE is one of the probabilities for the year 1897; a 64-pounder being mounted at Finlayson Point.

IT IS THE INTENTION TO mobilize the entire Fifth Regiment during the approaching season, so that all hands may have the benefit of a course under Lt.-Colonel Rawstorne, R.M.A., and his staff of instructors. Moscaul Point is the proposed camping ground.

THE EVIDENCE IN THE Onward case was practically finished at yesterday's sitting of the Behring Sea Claims Commission, the last part of the day being taken up with the hearing of witnesses on the Thornton claim.

THE AWARD HAS BEEN MADE in the arbitration which sat last week to determine the value of certain lots that were in dispute between the U. S. government, of England, by Mr. J. A. Lawrence.

SUNDAY MORNING'S sermon in the handsome edifice of the Metropolitan church was the last of Rev. Mr. Cleaver's morning series on the poetry, biography, history, doctrines, etc., of the Bible.

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THE CITY.

THE PUPILS OF CEDAR HILL SCHOOL had their annual Christmas entertainment a few evenings ago.

THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE will, it is expected, meet for the dispatch of business on February 8.

A PAPER ON A CHINESE CALENDAR found at Dove Creek, Cassiar, in 1883 was read before the Natural History Society last night by Mr. James Deane.

THE HANDSOME SILVER CUP which was awarded to British Columbia by the Spokane Fruit Fair has been received at the Department of Agriculture where it is to be secured for the present and placed in possession of the Fruit Growers' Association.

AT WELL ATTENDED MEETING of the Island Mount Quartz Mining Milling Co. yesterday morning, the agreement was confirmed transferring to the Island Mountain Gold Mines (Ltd.), of London, England, the property and assets of the first named company.

THE SERVICES IN THE various city churches on Sunday were largely attended both morning and evening, the special services being especially enjoyed. Christmas anthems and carols appear perhaps more strongly than any other to churchgoers, and few cared to miss the joyous services.

THE MEMBERS OF THE Y.W.C.A. yesterday decided to assist the Y.M.C.A. at their reception on New Year's Day. "Bigiolets" and the introduction of Bridal Chorus from Wagner's "Lohengrin." The concert is under the patronage of the Lieut.-Governor.

THE CHAMPION FIELD GUN detachment of No. 1 Company, Fifth Regiment, have been photographed for the purpose of sending the picture and the record to the Navy and Army Illustrated.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT arrangements will soon be completed for the employment of a qualified instructor in the Drill hall gymnasium.

THE NEW COMMANDING OFFICER and the adjutant are giving things a general overhauling in connection with the interior economy of the First Battalion.

BIG GUN PRACTICE is one of the probabilities for the year 1897; a 64-pounder being mounted at Finlayson Point.

IT IS THE INTENTION TO mobilize the entire Fifth Regiment during the approaching season, so that all hands may have the benefit of a course under Lt.-Colonel Rawstorne, R.M.A., and his staff of instructors. Moscaul Point is the proposed camping ground.

THE EVIDENCE IN THE Onward case was practically finished at yesterday's sitting of the Behring Sea Claims Commission, the last part of the day being taken up with the hearing of witnesses on the Thornton claim.

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MENTION was the decoration of the hall, with the season's greetings displayed conspicuously.

THREE small boys, Joseph Reynolds aged 13, Herbert Northcott aged 11 and Wm. Pardon aged 11, who were under the care of Rev. Father Durand, at Comox, ran away a few days ago and came to Victoria. Yesterday Detective Purdie and Provincial Constable O'Grady Beaven located the youngsters and turned Northcott and Purdon over to their relatives, who live here. Reynolds, who is an orphan, will be shipped back to Comox this morning on the City of Nanaimo.

IN THE absence of President Davies, Mr. Alex. Wilson occupied the chair at the regular meeting of the board of directors of the Jubilee hospital last evening. The salaries for the past month, amounting to \$610.85, were ordered paid, and during the evening, which was taken up with informal discussion, the secretary, Mr. H. M. Yates, announced that the ladies of the Angeronian Society had reported to him having \$678 for the hospital, but they had not determined on how it should be applied.

SIGHEERS COUNCIL, No. 85, Y.M.I., at a regular meeting last evening elected the following officers for the coming six months: President, W. H. Harris; first vice-president, C. J. Wilkes; second vice-president, L. Gray; permanent secretary, S. A. Bantly; financial secretary, W. J. Bantly; corresponding secretary, J. Colbert; treasurer, J. Conard; marshal, E. Geiger; inside sentinel, H. Sehl; and outside sentinel, C. Geiger. Rev. Father Nicolay, H. J. O'Leary and A. H. B. Hall were appointed as an advisory committee for the society, looking forward to Grand President Kavanaugh's visit here on the 6th of the coming month with considerable expectancy, and they have arranged for an open meeting on the evening of his arrival.

NO FRESH light has as yet been thrown upon the identity of the man calling himself Louis H., who committed suicide on Christmas eve. The conclusion of all who have inquired into the case is that there is some mystery in connection, but no one has felt it his especial business to attempt a solution. The city police, when it was suggested to them by undertaker Hanna that it would be advisable to photograph the dead man, agreed that such would be the proper course. The city would not stand the expense, however, they said, so no photograph has been taken. A postponement of the funeral was also announced yesterday, Rev. Canon Padon, who has a standing arrangement with the city to officiate at the funerals of the friendless dead, declining to act in the case of a suicide.

THE OFFICERS for the ensuing term of Milton lodge, No. 311, Sons of St. George, were duly installed by D.D.G.W.P. Thomas Bradbury at the last meeting, and the installed committee presented their report, which shows a large increase in finance and membership, the last twelve months being the most prosperous of the four years past. At the meeting, the committee presented the subordinate officers will be appointed and installed in their various offices. On New Year's Eve the sons and daughters of the order will hold their Christmas tea party and social gathering together at their families, and a few invited friends, and hope to keep up their reputation of having a jolly party always to be remembered by those taking part in it, renewing old friendships and making many new acquaintances.

PATENT REPORT. Below will be found the only complete weekly up to date record of patents granted to Canadian inventors, which is prepared specially for this paper by Messrs. Marion & Marion, solicitors of patents and experts; head office, Temple building, Montreal, from whom all information may be readily obtained:

No. 54,121—David Bradley, hook for harness.

No. 54,122—Charles Escher, skylight support.

No. 54,293—T. Potvin, car coupler.

No. 54,294—Mark I. Smith, mechanical movement.

No. 54,295—Georges Tyler, joint for the wooden felles of vehicles wheels.

No. 54,296—Richard S. Caswell, lubricants for bicycle chains.

No. 54,297—James H. K. McCollum, automatic air pumps for pneumatic tyres.

No. 54,298—Isaac P. Patton, bicycle driving gear.

No. 54,299—The Diamond Machine & Tool Company, pedal and pedal barrel.

No. 54,301—John P. Browning, auxiliary links for bicycles drive chain.

No. 54,302—Edgar D. Misner, bicycle brakes.

No. 54,310—John W. F. G. Aude, life belts.

No. 54,320—William H. Johnston, compressing grease clips.

No. 54,325—Francis N. Denison, short-cutting devices for stopping dental motors.

No. 54,337—Reuben C. Eldridge, snap hooks.

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FOR YUKON RIVER.

Proposed to Build Four Steamers for the Northern River.

Freight From Oregon For C. P. R. Liners—Rough Weather—Marine News.

The publication a few days ago of a report that a large steambot was seen to be built in some of the local shipyards has elicited the information that inquiries have been made by a Seattle business man for the building of four good-sized stern-wheel vessels for the Yukon. These, it was explained, would have to be British bottoms to comply with customs regulations in trading on the upper portion of the river. Recently nothing has been heard of the scheme, but some are inclined to believe that just as soon as the Yukon trade begins at Vancouver, for the Orient and for Australia, the demand from the latter country being so great that the regular steamer leaving here this week could not handle all that was offered, although she will take away over 5,000 tons. The Signal is a small carrier, but her cargo yesterday included 3,199 barrels consigned as follows: For Sydney, 1,520 barrels, \$9,080; for Hong Kong, 1,577 barrels, \$9,180; for Vancouver, B. C., 109 barrels, \$459. The Australian freight will be reshipped to the colonies on the steamer Mowara, sailing January 8, and the Oriental cargo will go forward on the Empress of India, sailing January 4.

ROUGH WEATHER AFOAT. Captains of vessels in the Royal Roads who ventured ashore in mild weather yesterday morning, found difficulty in returning to their vessels during the afternoon, and several instead of taking any risk spent the night ashore. The two arrivals in tow of the Sea Lion in the Roads on Monday evening were the bark Province, and Katie and Thomas. Both are in ballast and are here for orders. The latter comes from Santa Rosalia, but was spoken off Astoria and in consequence came here. The Province comes direct from Astoria.

CAPTAIN WARREN'S EVIDENCE. The examination of Captain J. D. Warren in the Thornton case occupied the entire time of the Behring Sea Claims Commission yesterday morning, with the exception of a short interval in which John Anderson, who has to leave town, was giving evidence on the Sayward case. Anderson furnished particulars as to the seizure and detention of the Sayward at Olaneska and Captain Warren in cross-examination by Hon. Mr. Dickinson said he had no recollection of giving evidence in Boscowitz v. Warren that the Thornton was worth with steam auxiliary engine \$4,000; she was worth more than that.

ON Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper wishing to submit a statement of claim, made by Captain Warren and presented to the Paris Tribunal, Hon. Mr. Dickinson, speaking for the commissioners, ruled that, without laying down any general rule, the statement could not be admitted, as substantive proof, but it might be made an exhibit, as showing the nature of the claim made at Paris. Sir Charles thought the document might be used, so far as to render intelligible some of the evidence by referring to it; but this point was not decided when the commission rose.

THE COMBINATION MINE. Attention has been recently directed to the strong showings that are now being made by Greenwood camp and to the large number of mining men of experience, including experts both from the United States and Canada, who have been and are now visiting the district. Among the most promising mines of the district is the Combination, a 1500-foot square claim, owned by the Combination Mining and Milling Company. This property is well located, within a few miles of Greenwood City. The Greenwood wagon road crosses a portion of the claim, running along the course of Eholt creek, a never-failing water supply, directly on the property. This property is situated on a high plateau, and is supplied with the necessary buildings for the present accommodation of the superintendent and his force of men, including a blacksmith shop furnished with sufficient tools to properly prosecute the work. The direct development of the mine consists of a tunnel, now at a depth of 40 feet from the surface. The bottom of this tunnel shows a ledge 4 feet in width, carrying a 12 inch pay streak. Assays from the surface to the present depth run from a total value of \$14 in the former to over \$216 at 35 feet. Running along the side of the pay streak is a full inch of carbonates that assays nearly \$400 per ton. The balance of the pay streak from the 20-foot level has never assayed less than \$85. Taking the pay streak as a whole, an average value of not less than \$170 has been shown at varying depths, between 25 and 40 feet and, as has been the invariable rule in this camp, both quantity and value are increasing as depth is attained. The first shipment from this property will be made inside of the next month and regular shipments will be continued from that time.

THE company is capitalized in the moderate figure of \$600,000, representing a like number of shares of the par value of \$1 each, of which 200,000 have been set aside as treasury stock for development purposes. A limited number of these are now being offered to the public at the very low price of 5 cents per share (fully paid and non-assessable). Mr. Wm. Monteth is the local agent for the company and has the exclusive handling of the treasury stock here.

THE Boundary Creek Times of a recent date has the following reference to the Combination: C. E. Bartholomew brought down on Tuesday a magnificent specimen of ore, literally specked and flaked with free gold, from the Combination. The specimen resembled closely the rich ore that was exhibited some months ago in Vancouver from the Golden Cache claim in Lillooet, and which caused such intense excitement at the time. Extra help was engaged this week to work on the Combination.

THE MERIT SYSTEM. There are politicians in the United States who, now the presidential campaign is over, think that they should reap the reward of their election labors by being given positions in the public service. These people have a spokesman in Congressman Evans, of Louisville, Kentucky. That gentleman hopes that "Mr. McKinley will rescind the order of the President made last spring extending the merit system to the Federal service." The New York Times thus expresses its belief that he will not do anything of the kind:

"We do not believe that Mr. McKinley, as President, will either rescind or suspend the rule extending the merit system. Why should he do so? He believes in the system cordially and intelligently. He has advocated it with effect and eloquently in Congress. He is pledged to support and extend it by the platform of his party, by his letter of acceptance, and by other utterances. What reason has Mr. Evans to suppose that President McKinley will utterly himself? If he were capable of such a precipitate action—which, of course, he is not—Mr. McKinley is neither a novice in politics nor a tool of politicians. Unlike some of the members of Congress in each party, he has principles and convictions which he wishes to carry out by means of his party. His notion of a party victory is that it gives an opportunity to do this, not that it is a mere chance to divide up the spoils of office. Were he to rescind or suspend Mr. Cleveland's order, he would have to give up most of his time for the first year in making 'deals' with the office seekers, sure to disappoint and enrage most of them, and losing all his own opportunities for large and worthy work. He is much more likely to extend than to restrict the scope of the merit system."

PREVIOUS to 1880 the public officials had been appointed on political grounds alone and the administration of each was an administration there was an entire change of government employees. The first attempt to inaugurate a reform was made during President Grant's second term of office, but it failed because Congress would not grant the money needed to establish the merit system. President Hayes introduced civil service rules in some of the departments, but could not prevail upon Congress to give him the supplies required to make any effective changes. In 1882, however, the Government was forced by stress of public opinion to pass civil service laws, and in the same year the Legislature of the State of New York adopted civil service reform. It was found that the new laws worked well, and that the Government was more efficiently and more honestly served by officials who had some guarantee that as long as they performed their duties faithfully there was little chance of their being superseded by favorites of a new administration, and that ability and conscientiousness were the conditions of promotion.

"In 1885," says Harper's Weekly, the number of officers and employees in the classified service under the national government was less than 15,000. To-day it is 90,000. Such an increase would not have been possible had not the presidents who successively ordered it become satisfied that the working efficiency and moral tone of the administrative machinery of the Government had been greatly benefited by the merit system."

It is not only in the national service that the merit system has been adopted. In several of the States, the administrative work of the Government is carried on by officials who have received their appointments, only because of their fitness for the work they were called upon to undertake, and many of the great cities have followed the example set them by the federal and state governments. To quote again from Harper's Weekly:

"The widespread movement for municipal reform, which sprung from the disgust and alarm of good citizens at the shocking misgovernment of our large municipalities, soon developed the recognition of the fact that without the introduction of faithful civil service reform methods, no effective reform of municipal administration would be possible. The consequence has been the spontaneous springing up of municipal civil service reform movements all over the country."

The merit system has been adopted in Chicago by a majority of 50,000 of the electors. In New Orleans, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Wheeling, and the neighboring cities of Seattle and Tacoma, "either provisions for the introduction of the merit system have been placed in city charters, or least popular movements looking toward that end are in progress." Efforts have been and are being made by the opponents of the system either to drive it out altogether or to get control of it and while preserving its general form make such changes as would utterly destroy its efficiency.

The members of the National Civil Service Reform League which met in Philadelphia on December 10 and 11, while congratulating themselves on the great progress their cause has made are on their guard against the attempts of selfish and unprincipled politicians to prevail upon the Republican party to return to the old order of things. The indications are that the honest and enlightened self-interest of the nation will defeat the ends of the schemers and strengthen the hands of those who desire that public affairs shall be conducted with the greatest possible efficiency and economy.

OPPOSED TO COERCION. LONDON, Dec. 28.—A dispatch to the Daily Telegraph from St. Petersburg says: "M. Nelidoff, the Russian ambassador to Constantinople, while here, warmly advocated the military occupation of Constantinople. The Council was convened to discuss this project. The majority of the ministers opposed M. Nelidoff's scheme, whereupon the Czar announced that he also was opposed to active coercion."

mas Prices.

FORMER RATES. Waltham \$ 7.00 Waltham \$10.00 P. S. Bart... \$12.50 P. S. Bart... \$15.00 P. S. Bart... \$16.50 P. S. Bart... \$27.50 P. S. Bart... \$22.00

COLUMBIANS.

See that prices come-down of 25 to 50 of the above goods. Rings, Diamonds, Pearls, Opals, Settings. Karat, Watches, from \$25.00 Jewelled Light Movements \$10.00

Toddart AND JEWELLER.

Victoria, B.C.

BEEN HEATING STOVE.

January 1st, 1896.



BROS. Street, TORONTO

RIES.

SOME OF OUR PRICES:

... \$1.00 ... \$1.50 ... \$2.00 ... \$2.50 ... \$3.00 ... \$3.50 ... \$4.00 ... \$4.50 ... \$5.00 ... \$5.50 ... \$6.00 ... \$6.50 ... \$7.00 ... \$7.50 ... \$8.00 ... \$8.50 ... \$9.00 ... \$9.50 ... \$10.00

MESON.

Victoria, B.C.

E.

... \$1.00 ... \$1.50 ... \$2.00 ... \$2.50 ... \$3.00 ... \$3.50 ... \$4.00 ... \$4.50 ... \$5.00 ... \$5.50 ... \$6.00 ... \$6.50 ... \$7.00 ... \$7.50 ... \$8.00 ... \$8.50 ... \$9.00 ... \$9.50 ... \$10.00

IFICATES

ERS, NALS, SHEETS, H ABSTRACTS, RTS, S AND PLANS

ONIST,

JUSTICE TO IRELAND.

Resolution Passed in Limerick Denouncing the Overtaxation of Ireland.

Lord Castletown's Declaration—John Daly Compares Him to George Washington.

LIMERICK, Dec. 29.—Lord Dunraven presided to-day at a meeting here of all classes of politicians, at which a resolution, similar to the one agreed upon at the Mansion House, Dublin, meeting, yesterday, was adopted, calling upon the government to remedy the financial injustice done to Ireland by over-taxation. Bishop O'Dwyer, who was the chief speaker, exhorted Irishmen to stand their ground in respect to the words of Lord Castletown, uttered at Cork on December 3, when he denounced the obstinacy of the British treasury officials in refusing to right the grievances of the Irish in respect to taxation. Lord Castletown added that he hoped history might not repeat itself and the people of Cork follow the example of the people of Boston in 1773 when the latter threw a quantity of tea into the harbor as a protest against unjust taxation. Continuing, Bishop O'Dwyer said that Lord Castletown went to Boston for an example, but he (the Bishop) would not look to Lord Castletown and the volunteers of 1782, Henry Grattan and the gentry in an Irish parliament.

John Daly, the Irish political prisoner recently released from prison, said that Lord Castletown's declaration that he would have truth and justice on his side or do as the people in America had done, set a thrill through the country, and he hoped the meeting would declare that Lord Castletown was true to him and Ireland. History might yet proclaim him to be the successor of the great and illustrious George Washington. (Cheers.)

CLERICAL UNDUER INFLUENCE.

(From the Toronto Mail-Examiner.)

A great deal of interest will be taken in the Champlain election trial, because in this particular case the charge of undue clerical influence is to be shifted by the courts. During the late contest the accusation was frequently made in Ontario that the bishops and clergy were on the war path, and were bent upon defeating Liberal candidates, not through the ordinary method of expressing opinions, but by launching immoderate attacks as such voters as should dare to approve of the Liberal programme. There was certainly evidence that the church had decided views on one of the questions of the day. They were voiced in the form of a mandate. But they did not differ from the Liberal policy. As a matter of fact, the Liberal candidates applauded them, and Mr. G. W. Ross went especially to Quebec to deliver a speech plainly indicating that they were participated in by himself and the Ontario Reformers.

The position was simply this: By the Liberais, notably by Mr. Israel Fauriol, the clerics had been attacked for having failed to take political action with respect to the Manitoba question, more especially during the contest of 1891. By the same men they were urged to speak in 1896. A large deputation of Liberal members waited upon Mr. Begin at Quebec to request him, as the representative of the Cardinal, to intimate to the Liberal interests. The bishops did give an opinion in their mandement, which mandement all the Liberal candidates adopted as the direct voicing of their policy and their intentions. But, while the position of the bishops was well understood, there was nothing further than the election reports, used for party purposes in Ontario, to show that any ecclesiastics had exceeded the right to express an opinion—a right to which every citizen is entitled.

In the Champlain case, however, the charge of excessive action is laid. It is alleged that the Bishop of Three Rivers and several of his curies went beyond the mandement, departed from the course pursued elsewhere, actively interfered in politics, exercised undue influence on the side of the Conservative nominees, and intimidated the voters by threatening them with spiritual terrors. This case raises an old question—one which was really settled in favor of the free exercise of the franchise many years ago. There were two ecclesiastical schools in the province of Quebec. One, which is not governed at all by party considerations or political names, stands for electoral liberty. It maintains that the voter has franchises which he must exercise, without coercion as well as without corruption, in behalf of good government as he understands it. The other restricts the liberty of the elector and requires him to accept in respect of issues which are regarded as mixed—that is to say, that are pronounced to be partly secular and partly spiritual—the dictum of the ecclesiastical body. For a long time the latter school had everything its own way. Its views were undisputed; such action as was taken in virtue of its principles was legal. In the earlier seventies, however, a case of clerical interference, accompanied by intimidation, reached the courts, and entirely changed the face of affairs.

It was claimed that the threat uttered from the pulpit to influence an election, the attempt to direct the voters by the awakening of fears as to the future, was contrary to our law; and by the courts one after the other, from the lowest to the highest, this claim was declared to be just and valid. Ours to-day recognizes and defends the right of every citizen to vote as he pleases; the right of every citizen, ecclesiastical or lay, to speak and reason on behalf of such principle, party or candidate as may be most acceptable to him; but the influencing of the electorate by threats is not tolerated by our law; nor, indeed, can it be permitted on Canadian soil.

NEWFOUNDLAND BLOCKED.

St. John's, Dec. 29.—An iceberg block on the whole Northeastern coast of the island has begun and steamers and vessels are returning here, it being impossible to reach the mining settlements. All navigation will be suspended for the

balance of the year. A number of vessels are frozen in the ice and will remain there until spring. The mail boats, Virginia narrowly escaped being crushed. The Newfoundland legislature will attempt to secure reciprocity with the United States, when it meets in February. The cabinet is now discussing the question.

NOTES FROM NELSON.

(From the Nelson Miner.)

William Archer, of New York, vice-president of the Lost Creek Development Company, said to a representative of The Miner that he was here with a view of starting the work of development early in the spring. There has been a 100-foot tunnel run in the Montreal and 50 feet in the Annie. Mr. Archer is a director in the company owning the hydraulic planters from Waneta to Fourteen-Mile creek, and says that work on them is expected to be resumed as soon as spring opens.

The new electric light company has been practically formed, \$14,000 of a capital stock of \$20,000 having been subscribed. The work of construction will be commenced as soon as the water rights have been secured from the government. The company will order one 5,000 light machine, step up and step down transformer, long distance system that will supply 2,200 volts in town, also one 50-light arc machine. Power will be supplied during the daytime for motors, cooking and heating at the rate of three miles per ampere per hour.

Considerable work has been done on the properties in Sprone and Falls creek districts. One tunnel of 30 feet has been driven on the Wetsquiwin claim, and there will be one tunnel of 40 feet driven on the Panther claim, and also one shaft on the Ranger claim. All these claims are looking first-rate. They are situated on a 20-foot ledge of free milling gold quartz. Assays so far have been ranging from \$5 to \$30.

E. Shiell, from the Whitewater district, says the Whitewater mine is improving as it goes down. The Wellington is employing about 25 men and shipping about two cars per week. Assays average about \$500. The company is about to open up the Ottawa, a claim adjoining the Wellington. The Charleston has six men at work and between \$6,000 and \$7,000 has been spent in tunneling. Some of the carboniferous runs as high as 4,000 ounces. In the Lone Star mineral claim a crosscut tunnel is being run, and Manager Shiell expects to strike the lead in a little while. The mine is getting fine indications and expects to be a shipper in the spring.

The Exchequer company is working two shafts on its mine on Toad mountain. The last assay is said to run \$75 in gold. They are taking out a good deal of low grade ore and some high grade, and so far the property meets the expectations of the company. The Nelson Miner would like to see Capt. C. Phillips Woolley representing the government as emigration agent, in any position in which he could be delivering lectures in Eastern Canada and England, make known the wonderful resources and natural advantages of British Columbia. This would be an occupation for which he is well fitted, being a good speaker and writer and knowing nearly all parts of the province.

A diamond drill is at work on the Silver Queen, adjoining the Hall Mines, and indications look favorable for a strike. Mr. Fred Stone has the contract for 1,000 feet of drilling, and he expects to strike the same class of ore that has been found in the Kootenay Bonanza.

PACAUD'S EXPLANATIONS.

MONTREAL, Dec. 29.—Mr. Pacaud writes in the first issue of Le Soleil: "Will you permit me to explain through the columns of your paper the sudden disappearance of L'Electeur. Every Catholic heard the reading of the mandement of some of our bishops yesterday, which interdicted the reading of my paper. Of course I appeal from that condemnation to the Roman court. Still, I am informed, my appeal will not suspend the effect of the censure. From this moment there are no means left me but to suspend the publication of L'Electeur. I could not easily place my readers, who are exclusively Catholics, in the awkward position of disobeying the episcopacy. I hope that the regrettable conflict will disappear before long, and that I shall be able to continue the publication of L'Electeur, to which I have been deeply attached by seventeen years of constant labor and great sacrifice.—Yours faithfully, ERNEST PACAUD."

L. O. David has sent a letter to the press in which he says: "I sent my brochure to the clergy to Rome binding myself to the limits to submit to the judgment of the Roman authorities. I learn it has been condemned by the congregation of the index. I keep my promise. I submit to that judgment and withdraw my brochure from all newspapers where it was on sale. I understand that he alone is responsible for the book."

TO BE DROPPED.

TORONTO, Dec. 29.—(Special)—The Globe's Ottawa special says: "There will be no more political contests in British Columbia for the present. As far as protests are concerned, it is understood they will all be dropped. There were five protests, three against Liberals and two against Conservatives. In other words the sitting members for the province except one, Morrison, of New Westminster, were protested against. Two of the Conservative seats are in Victoria."

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The finest medicine of Castoria is on every wrapper.

MONTREAL, Dec. 29.—Ex-Mayor Beau-

grand, proprietor of La Patrie, announced in his paper, that he was a candidate for election to the Quebec house on an anti-clerical platform. Mr. Beaugrand has been for years at the head of the French radical movements among the French Canadians.

NO SETTLEMENT AS YET

Spain Denies the Existence of an Understanding With the U. S.

To Restrict German Emigration—Killed by an Australian Storm.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—An emphatic denial is given in Madrid to the report, credited to the Washington Post, that Senor Dupuy de Lome, the Spanish minister at Washington, and Mr. Olney had concluded negotiations for the acceptance by Spain of the good offices of the United States in the settlement of the Cuban insurrection.

A Berlin dispatch to the Standard says that Chancellor von Hohenlohe will submit to the Bundestag a bill which is intended to restrict emigration from the agricultural districts of Germany. M. Ricard, Moderate Republican, has been elected to the chamber of deputies of the Peruvian frontier by Boya, an overwhelming majority. The late member, M. Santner, Socialist, recently deceased, was elected for this district in May last by a majority of only 107 votes over M. Ricard.

A Melbourne despatch to the Times says a violent storm destroyed the town of Never-Tire. It is feared that several persons have been killed. The destructive movement of the bog land at Castle island finally ceased to-night. Two bodies were found a mile away from the scene of the disaster.

The relations between Peru and Bolivia are strained owing to an invasion of the Peruvian frontier by Boya. A new cabinet has been formed in Serbia in which M. Simies is premier and minister of foreign affairs; M. Miskovic minister of war; H. Vuez minister of finance; and H. Gercevic minister of the interior.

AN OPINION OF KOOTENAY.

SEATTLE, Dec. 29.—J. E. H. Moneypenny, of London, Eng., who has been in the Kootenay in behalf of the London Times, in an interview the other day said: "When I left England there was a marked decline of interest in South African mines, and at the same time distinct evidence of appreciation of the remarkable mineral resources of British Columbia. There appeared to be several reasons why investors might be some day in investments being made in British Columbia, and this fact is due to the interest excited in New Zealand mines, and the further fact that large investors in South African mines cannot now withdraw from that field without loss. Of course a large number of persons of comparatively small means lost a great deal of money in South Africa, and it is not surprising to hear how much they may desire to invest here, they haven't the money to do so."

"What is your opinion of the future of the Kootenay?" was asked. "It is most favorable, and I shall so report to my friends when I reach England. Unquestionably the mineral deposits here are enormously rich, and the developments already made are only indications of what will be done in the near future. English capitalists who have not yet ready to invest, are not idle, but are sent agents to British Columbia for the purpose of securing accurate information. Next spring probably there will be an extraordinary amount of money invested in the Kootenay."

CAUSED A SENSATION.

TORONTO, Dec. 29.—The Montreal correspondent of the Mail and Empire says, discussing the L'Electeur matter: "The action has caused a tremendous sensation in Quebec. In the city churches the fulmination was, as a general rule, received solemnly, while in St. John's in Quebec Centre, and St. Roch's and St. Sauveur churches in Quebec, at all masses the congregation marked their displeasure by interrupting its reading by frequent fits of coughing, in which all seemed to join, so as to completely drown the voices of the priests, but it was after divine service that indignation found its chief vent. The excited members of the different French congregations gathered in large knots on the street and angrily discussed the mandement, using rather strong language. L'Electeur evidently had thousands of abettors and sympathizers, who openly declared their indignation, and who were called to read and support it, and to resist ecclesiastical terrorism and despotism to the bitter end. Hundreds who have never patronized L'Electeur announced their intention of doing so in the future."

THE UNITED STATES AND SPAIN.

LONDON, Dec. 30.—The announcement made by the Washington Post that Secretary Olney and Senor Dupuy de Lome, the Spanish minister at Washington, have practically terminated the negotiations on the Cuban question, to be submitted to congress when it reassembles on January 5, is creating much interest here. From interviews with the Spanish consul general and representatives of leading Cuban firms in London, the Associated Press learns that the negotiations are generally satisfactory, and not unexpected. The consul general of Spain in this city said: "The statements made by the Washington Post are most important, and if true cannot but improve the commerce between Cuba and the United States."

THE ALLEGED FILIBUSTERER.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—The treasury department and the department of justice expect that the prosecution of the alleged filibustering steamer Three Friends will be under section 5282 of the revised statutes. This will be a new method of prosecution. Heretofore the proceedings have been mainly under section 5285, covering expeditions. Section 5282 is directed against the arming and mounting of guns on a vessel intended to be used against a friendly nation. As those on board the Three Friends have given circumstantial evidence in their meeting and the firing of the Hotchkiss rapid firing gun it is believed by officials that section 5282 will apply to the case. The proceedings against the vessel are much more severe than in the case of a vessel fitted out as an expedition, and provides that on conviction the vessel and all the tackle shall be forfeited to the United States.

MONTREAL, Dec. 29.—The condition of His Grace Archbishop Fabre, who takes a turn for the worse and though he is perfectly conscious, it is officially stated that he can only last a few hours. Will be found an excellent remedy for sick headache. Carter's Little Liver Pills have cured them prove this fact. Try them.

BY NO MEANS SETTLED.

Manitoba School Question May Cause a Bitter Racial and Religious War.

The Bishops Called Upon to Act so as to Guide the People.

MONTREAL, Dec. 30.—(Special)—What is regarded by some as the most bitter racial and religious war which Canada has ever witnessed has begun. The mandement of five bishops of the diocese of Quebec issued last Sunday, was the signal for battle, and clearly indicates that the hierarchy do not mean to be deceived. While at first view this action of the hierarchy may appear to the ultra-Protestant as an encroachment on the rights of the citizen, it is claimed that a careful perusal of the cases which have led up to it will no doubt do much to dispel the illusion.

"La Minerve calls upon the hierarchy from the diocese of Montreal to condemn the Liberal papers in the district which approve of the settlement of the Manitoba school question. 'The language of these papers,' it says, 'is proof positive of the urgency existing for the hierarchy to act so as to guide.'"

Mr. J. E. P. Pendergast, of St. Boniface, who, it was announced with a great flourish of trumpets, would be present at the Laurier banquet and would be in favor of the school settlement, now states that he is unable to be present.

TORONTO, Dec. 30.—(Special)—A Montreal special to the World says that the bishops of the entire province are about to issue a mandement denouncing the Manitoba settlement and unmistakably warning any Catholic member of parliament who does not protest against it. It adds: "This will bring about the voluntary retirement of several Catholic members from the House of Commons. The principal stand is in enmity to that ten or a dozen serious gaps will appear in the Liberal deputation from this province. Then," continues the dispatch, "Sir Adolphe Chapleau will resign, Spencerwood will carry a vacant constituency and having taken his seat for Terrebonne, Mr. Chauvin resigning, will assume the leadership of the French-Conservative party."

MASSACRES IN CUBA.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—A dispatch to the World from Key West says: A recent massacre by Gen. Melquios's troops in Western Cuba is described in a recent letter received from an insurgent leader. In a little hamlet forty miles north of Pinar del Rio dwelt about seventy-five negroes, most of them old, and all non-combatants. They lived on a small tract of land, having a few cattle and some small cane fields and truck farms. Spanish guerrillas, commanded by Pierrito, visited the place a fortnight ago. All the people were assembled and searched for valuables, the women and girls being subjected to indignities. Not finding as they wanted, the guerrillas shot two young men, pretending that they were Spanish deserters. Six others were tied to trees and horribly whipped.

Two young women were tied to trees, their backs were bared and the lash applied because they resisted the soldiers' advances. Their screams aroused the anger of the other women that they made a combined attack on the guerrillas with clubs. The guerrillas easily beat them off and fired indiscriminately among them, killing 15 or 20 men, women and two young children. The others escaped, although the Spanish murderers fired on them as long as they were in sight. The guerrillas then fired the houses, throwing the dead bodies in the buildings, drove off the cattle, destroyed the crops and trampled their horses over the potato patches, so nothing in the way of food was left. These poor people left without food or shelter took up their abode in the foothills, building themselves huts of branches and grass. Some have died of exposure, and not more than thirty of the seventy-five now survive. The letter told of other outrages, and stated that for miles and miles where formerly were happy homes and flourishing fields, not a house nor a living being is to be seen.

CHOLERA AT HONGKONG.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—The steamer Peru brings news that in addition to the smallpox epidemic at Japanese ports, cholera has revived at Hongkong, is increasing and serious results are expected. The disease has made much headway in many Chinese cities and on the island of Formosa. The Japanese have declared a quarantine against all cholera infected districts.

A severe famine is reported from western China. It is particularly severe in the city of Chuan Tung, in Szechuen province, where there have been floods which have spread over large areas of country, destroying almost the entire rice and vegetable crops. The inhabitants are dying by scores from starvation. A large portion of the city, situated on a bluff at a bend of the Kinshui river, was carried under the flood by a landslide and about three thousand of the starving Chinese were drowned. The flood had undermined the base of the bluff, and a portion of the bluff, about five acres in extent, fell into the water.

NEWARK IN DARKNESS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—Fire swept through the dynamo building of the Newark Light, Heat and Power Company, on the Passaic river to-night and the city was plunged in total darkness. All the streets and stores which depend upon the electric power for their light were cut off. Very few of these were supplied in any way with gas light. Those manufacturing houses which depend upon the power of the electric company will not be able to start up again until tomorrow or the following day. In the building which was destroyed were 37 dynamos. The fire started in the big switchboard from which radiated the over line of street, commercial and house lighting of the city. Leo Gamp, foreman of the dynamo room, was manipulating the switchboard when the blaze started. The power house was totally destroyed, and with it probably the great majority of the dynamos. The loss will not fall far short of \$175,000.

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the Spanish officials here. Negotiations toward home rule have proceeded for some months, and the last phase of these negotiations indicated an enlargement of the home rule laws adopted by the Spanish Cortes last year, but not put in execution. These arrangements embrace the election of the entire Cuban congress instead of a mixed congress of fifteen elected members and fifteen appointed by the Queen Regent, and also a complete control by Cuba of her tariff question. The latest statement regarding Spain's intention with respect to the pacification of Cuba therefore deals with the past phases of the rebellion, Spain having decided on a considerably more liberal scheme of reforms than the old, to which the latest publication on this subject has reference. As yet, however, the negotiations with respect to the enlarged reforms are tentative. A draft of them has not been received as yet at Washington, and the information on them is of a general nature.

CABLE NEWS.

During last night and this morning the bog-slide in Ireland continued unchanged. A copious rainfall helped the movement of the mass of bog a mile and a half wide, which roared like the ocean and carried away bridges and roads, destroying houses and farms, sweeping through Flesk valley and emptying past, carcasses of cows, sheep and donkeys and debris of houses into the lakes of Killynure. Lord Kenmore caused a cordon of guards to be drawn around the slide in order to prevent further loss of life.

Sir Alexander Milne, admiral of the fleet, once in command of the North American station, is dead. While in command of the North Pacific station he received the Prince of Wales at Halifax upon the occasion of the latter's visit to America. Sir Alexander was the first admiral on the North American station who officially visited any ports of the United States after the war in 1812, when he arrived in New York in 1863, at the time of the civil war.

A Times despatch from Calcutta says the long lost birthplace of Buddha has been discovered in Nepal-Tera. There has been more fighting in Buchanaland, and the rebel position has been taken. The principal stand is in flames. The natives lost heavily, but are still fighting in the hills. No casualties have occurred among the whites.

The bodies of three whites, murdered in recent disturbances, have been recovered. The Standard publishes a dispatch from Rome saying it is not likely that His Holiness the Pope will be able to hold New Year receptions on successive days in accordance with his custom. Arrangements are being made to have the reception as brief as possible.

A Paris despatch says: "M. Clemenceau, the distinguished statesman, is seriously ill. Bertram Currie, the English delegate to the Brussels monetary conference in 1892, is dead. A special from Paris reports that an American named Jurgen, who was formerly manager of the Eden museum in New York and who was well known in Paris theatrical circles, has committed suicide at his residence in the Champs Elysees. He attached a tube to the gas jet, put the other end in his mouth, and was thus asphyxiated. It is stated that the suicide was due to financial trouble. In spite of the misunderstanding over the alleged outrages committed by Brazilians upon Italian immigrants, Italians still continue to take ship for the South American Republic. In the present month it is estimated that 22,200 Italians will leave Genoa for South America, to distribute themselves among Chile, Peru, Argentina and Brazil. 15,000 of them going to the last-named country."

TO APPEAL TO ENGLAND.

OTTAWA, Dec. 29.—It is reported in official circles that a representative of the Laurier government will go to England soon and have a conference with the Imperial authorities regarding the action of the bishops in Quebec in communicating the organ of the Liberal party. It is considered here among the French Canadian circles to be more desirable to refer the case to the English government than to appealing to Rome.

NOT A CARDINAL.

ROME, Dec. 29.—The statements published in New York of the possibility of the elevation of Archbishop Corrigan to the cardinalate, are pronounced by the Vatican authorities to be pure guess work, and nothing will be known definitely on the subject until the next consistory, which will take place at Easter. The Argon, which has been quoted on the subject, is an insignificant newspaper of Verona, and is no authority on Vatican news.

AN OLD TIME CLOWN.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 29.—Jensung W. Bancker, who enjoyed the distinction of being one of the oldest living clowns, died last night at the Philadelphia almshouse. He was about 75 years of age. In days gone by Bancker was perhaps the best known clown in the country. Lack of means compelled him to make his home in the poor house.

HAMILTON, Dec. 28.—Mrs. Astle, wife of Samuel Astle, about 55 years of age, was burned to death to-night. She was alone in the house, and when her daughter returned she found the woman lying at the foot of the stairs with a broken lamp by her side. She was burned almost past recognition. Mr. Aston is present at Port Huron, Mich.

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CUSTOMS COLLECTOR.

Appointment at Westminster—Ministers Making Arrangements to Settle Down.

Another Official Discharged to Make Room for a Government Supporter.

(From Our Own Correspondent.) OTTAWA, Dec. 29.—Peter Grant has been appointed collector of customs at New Westminster. Hon. Mr. Sifton has purchased a \$10,000 house in this city. Hon. Mr. Fielding has leased Sir John Carling's former residence.

Ald. Gareau, timekeeper for the public works department, has been discharged to make way for one of the faithful. OTTAWA, Dec. 30.—The fisheries department is advised that a Newfoundland company proposes to exploit the whale fishery off the Labrador coast. The corporation of Ottawa intends to present a strong case to the Dominion government, in asking for a new financial arrangement with the city. Communications have been sent to the principal capitalists in the empire, and the replies are calculated to help the Ottawa case. To-night three strong replies were presented to the city council from London, Dublin and Edinburgh respectively. Communications are expected shortly from Australia and the South African colonies.

The sub-committee of the council of the Dominion Rifle Association has decided to recommend one set of plans for the proposed Biele building as coming within the requirements of the conditions both as regards appearance and cost. The city council to-night presented a Collegiate Institute boy, Douglas Lyon, with a gold watch for attempting to save the lives of two boys in the Rideau canal last month.

The government does not propose to offer any special inducements to Armenians to settle in Canada, and has replied to the Imperial authorities that there is no appropriation existing, and in addition the climate is unsuitable for them. Nearly all the ministers are in Montreal to-night attending the banquet to Hon. Mr. Laurier.

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BIRTHS.

DUMBLETON—At "Newholme," Rockland avenue, on the 24th inst., the wife of Alan A. Dumbleton, of a daughter.

TRASKS—On December 28th, 1896, at Kelston Wood, George Road, Victoria, British Columbia, the wife of John Gerhard Trasks, of 7 sons.

PORTER—In this city on the 28th inst., the wife of Walter Harris Porter (of the Occidental hotel), of a daughter.

MARRIED.

HAWKSBY-WILSON—At the residence of Mr. Tyler, 51 Hillside avenue, on December 24, by the Rev. Solomon Cleaver, William Hawksby, of Yorkshire, England, to Emma Wilson, of Bishopscote, Devonshire, the third daughter of Richard Bark, Kenford, England.

SLADEN-BOYS—On the 24th December, at the Rectory, Bishopscote, Devonshire, by the Rev. Bishop Orde, Lieut. Sampson Sladen, U.S. Wild swan, son of Colonel Joseph Sladen, Royal Artillery, of Colchester, Kent, to Fanny Harriet, eldest daughter of the late Lieut. George Sayer Boys, E.N.

DIED.

DRABY—In this city, on the 28th inst., Jane, wife of William John Draby, eldest daughter of Thomas Seward, of Lytton, B.C., aged 28 years.

JACKMAN—At No. 6 Bayward avenue, Spring Ridge, Mary Maynard, beloved wife of Samuel J. Jackman, of Strabrook, Vt., aged 32 years, 3 months.

WE CAN GIVE POSITIONS—To persons of all grades of ability. Agents, Bookkeepers, Clerks, Farmers, Sons, Lawyers, Mechanics, Physicians, Preceptors, Ringers, Married and Single Women, Widows, Students worth from \$400.00 to \$2,000.00 per annum. We have paid several of our canvassers \$500.00 weekly for years. Many have started poor and become rich with us. Particulars upon application. State salary expected. Send to T. H. LINSKOTT, Manager, Toronto, Ont.

CHRISTMAS

Sunday

Christm

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CHRISTMAS TREATS.

Sunday Schools in All Sections of the City Enjoying Special Entertainments.

Christmas Trees and Boats and Chimneys Laden With Gifts for the Young Folk.

One of the most unique and pleasing Christmas entertainments of the present season was given last night at St. John's schoolroom under the distinguished patronage of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. Dewdney, and His Worship the Mayor and Mrs. Beaven, and aptly entitled "Santa Clause in a Pliant."

The news was brought from the Saint by a brownie and a fairy, the queen of the fairies, with her ring around her neck, glides from the ferns and brushwood, and having learned the fulness of the disaster undertakes in sweet strains to do what can be made good the evil.

The elves and the fairies then trip the measure together, and the tidings having at length reached the Saint he greets himself to return thanks and is shown with fitting songs by Queen Mab and her hand and the brown-clad elves, their fellows.

Swept away by delight at their kindness he clasps every little fairy by the hand. The wand is now waved over the chimney and the Saint returns in a car drawn by eight white horses—the clock looks are told—and with the help of the elf leader and the fairy queen takes down the bricks in bundles from his chimney and bestows them on the youths and maidens round the room.

This with one or two well given songs by Mr. Munro and Mrs. Anderson, and a little lady in white who was called back is a slight but greatly wanting sketch of what took place; it must be seen to be fully understood and will regret the time so spent. God Save the Queen brought a merry evening to an end shortly before 10 o'clock. Those who have missed this unavoidably will have a chance of making good their loss next week.

Across the road in the newly painted and pretty little school room of Calvary Baptist church another gathering of bright-eyed expectant children gazed upon a tree of marvellous beauty and fruitfulness. It stood in the corner of the room, and looked as though the whole electrical power of the city was concentrated for its benefit. It contained presents for every boy and girl, which were distributed after a children's programme of songs, recitations, etc., had been provided. This programme was made up of an address by Mr. A. T. McNeil; a Christmas carol, recitations, by Russell Robinson and Norma Sears; a solo by Hazel Morrison; a recitation by Jessie Mallett; a solo by Grace Beattie; an instrumental solo by Agnes Dier; a recitation by Gladys Rogers; a chorus by the choir; a recitation by Reggie Beckwith; a recitation by Wilbert Weir; a recitation by Percy and Alzie Beattie; recitations by Clyde Rogers and Le Vaio; club swinging by Gracie Dudgeon; a solo by Miss Z. Buck; a recitation by Florence McNeil; an address by Rev. Mr. Trotter; a chorus; a duet by Ethel and Le Brook Vaio; a dialogue by five little girls in costume; a recitation by Stanley Stuart; a solo by Gracie Vaio; a recitation by Nellie Frugge; a duet by Charles Campbell and Lewis Chamberlain; a reading by John Coates; and two choruses.

Out at the little Methodist mission in Spring Ridge, there was a big gathering of young people at the Christmas treat and entertainment last evening, a pleasing feature of the event being a presentation by the children of a handsome clock to Mr. J. Lory. The music of the evening was particularly bright and crisp, and the adults in attendance appeared to take an equal interest with the children in the proceedings. But while the young folks of the Methodist church in Spring Ridge were holding high carnival over Santa Clause through James Bay of the same denomination were sharing the bounties of an immense tree, highly illuminated and adorned profusely. There had, earlier in the evening, been a grand and the sequent proceedings a good programme by the children of the James Bay church.

In St. Andrews Presbyterian school room the children were last night given an unmissable treat, but no treat for their Christmas treat. After enjoying some good games with sufficient refreshments of a substantial nature, a programme was given in the lecture room as follows: Piano solo, Miss Edith Bamford; reading, Miss Emily Pearce; song, Mr. Farlane; reading, Miss Rose Robinson; song, Miss Spring; instrumental trio, the Misses Brown and Lock and Master Fraser; and drill by members of the Boys' Brigade.

In the Japanese Methodist mission, just above Douglas street on Yates was a cheery Christmas gathering as assembled during the evening. There was a very large Christmas tree and the novelty of the numerous gifts distributed was in some instances very amusing. In addition to what the tree contained there was a big bag of nuts and oranges for everyone present. Songs, readings, etc., by the Japanese, made up part of the evening's entertainment, which was greatly enjoyed by the many white guests in attendance as also by the members of the mission.

Victoria West Methodist school was another of those enjoying the Christmas treat last night. They, however, dispensed with the familiar tree and in its place had a Christmas boat, correctly rigged in Semple's hall, from the Imperieuse, and laden with gifts for one and all. The pupils of the school contributed the interesting incidental programme of a musical and literary character.

The Sunday school of the Congregational church will hold its annual Christmas treat this evening next for "Professor" Bob Foster. The programme will be chiefly provided by volunteers from the navy.

ADJUTANT CLARKE conducted the simple but none the less impressive burial services of the Salvation Army yesterday in connection with the interment of the unfortunate stranger calling himself "Louis II," who committed suicide on Christmas eve.

Mrs. S. J. JACKMAN, of Strawberry Vale, died yesterday at a lingering illness, at No. 6 Sayward avenue, Spring Ridge, from which place the funeral takes place to-morrow afternoon. The deceased lady was but 32 years of age at the time of her demise.

Mr. T. H. L. LEWIS, past grand commander of the Select Knights, one of the leading mutual benefit societies of the city, is in the city in the interests of the above organization. He has been very successful on his Western trip, and has organized lodges in all the principal towns on his way to the coast.

mas treat this evening at 6 o'clock. At 8 o'clock the parents of the scholars and the public are invited to be present, when the members of the school will present a suitable entertainment. This evening another Christmas tree entertainment will be given in the Victoria West Baptist mission.

THE CITY

VICTORIA Columbia Lodge, No. 1, A. F. and A. M., installs officers on the evening of the 7th January.

THE A. O. U. W. hall has been engaged for a benefit entertainment on Saturday evening next for "Professor" Bob Foster. The programme will be chiefly provided by volunteers from the navy.

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A PUBLIC meeting in the interests of the I. O. F. is announced for the evening of the 6th proximo at A. O. U. W. hall, when Major McGillivray, ex-member of the House of Commons for North Ontario, will be the principal speaker. He is general secretary of the order, and comes west on a missionary tour in its interest.

A COMPANY will seek incorporation at the approaching session of parliament whose proposal is, as stated in the formal notice of application to build and operate a line of railway "from a point at or near Leithbridge, N.W.T., through the Crown's Nest Pass to the Columbia river; thence westerly to a point on or near the Fraser river or the Straits of Georgia, or any arm or branch of the same at tidewater or seaboard."

The provincial police received a telegraphic request from Union yesterday to detain a Japanese known as "Bob" for the theft of a considerable sum of money from his employers. The dishonest employe was supposed to have stowed away on the steamer Monmouthshire, which called here on her way out to sea, but as the telegram ordering his detention was not delivered to the police until after the steamer had sailed the officers of the law were helpless in the matter. Particulars of the theft are not yet to hand.

VICTORIANS who are always ready to respond to the cry of genuine distress will on Tuesday evening next have opportunity to assist a most deserving cause and at the same time enjoy an excellent concert at a merely nominal admission price. The scene of the entertainment is Semple's hall, Victoria West, and the concert is for the benefit of the widow and children of the late Mr. McLaughlan, third officer of the Costa Rica, who was accidentally killed on his ship at Departure Bay. The circumstances of the tragic death of this popular young Scotsman are still quite fresh in the minds of the people, and it is the opportunity to do a charitable deed by at least purchasing one or two tickets for the "benefit." The programme, of twenty numbers, will be provided by the following artists: Miss M. A. Lewis, Chamberlain; a reading by John Coates; and two choruses.

One of the most attractive of the many entertainments arranged for New Year's eve is in the hands of a number of the merry minstrel bands who on Thursday evening to Saanichton there to regale the residents of the district and those who may go out from the city with a choice programme of fun and melody. The Saanichton "Serenaders" is the name of the company have chosen for this appearance, which is in connection with the North Saanich Aid Society of which Mrs. William Armstrong is president, Mrs. Samuel Brethour vice-president, Miss Maggie McDonald treasurer and Mrs. J. J. White secretary. The minstrel's first part will introduce sentimental and comic songs by Messrs. Fred. Richardson, H. E. A. Robertson, James E. Filling, B. W. Powell, J. M. Finn, Geo. E. Powell, and G. L. later in the programme "the only pickaninny," Sam Johnson, will appear and the Dixie Quartette, Messrs. Sehl, Robertson, Finn and Thomas will be heard in a number of new selections.

The members of Vancouver-Quadra lodge No. 2, A.F. and A.M., celebrated St. John's day on Monday last, by installing the officers who will direct the lodge affairs during the coming term. The gentlemen thus honored by the brethren of the craft are: George Glover, I.P.M.; M. H. Thompson, W.M.; A. M. Muir, S.W.; A. Walkley, J.W.; J. B. Lovell, T.; C. Fletcher, S.; Rev. Dr. Campbell, Chap.; F. V. Robertson, S.D.; G. L. Clayton, J.P.; F. Berry, Organist; E. B. Gregory, D. of C.; E. Bragg and A. Henderson, Stewards; Joseph Lismore, I.G.; and F. Stockam, Tyler. The installation was conducted by E. W. D. G. M. Bro. D. Wilson, assisted by a number of the Grand Lodge officers, among them Bros. B. Williams, S.G.W.; J. W. Colburn, J.G.W.; A. B. Erskine, G.T.; W. A. Richardson, G.S. of W.; and A. C. Muir, G.O. A pleasant feature of the proceeding was the presentation to Bro. George Glover, the immediate past master, of a very handsome past master's jewel; the presentation was made by D.D.G.M. Wilson and Mr. Glover's acknowledgment of the honor conferred upon him was eloquent and most appropriate. Several hours were afterwards spent in the new banqueting room, a well-filled table first receiving attention and the company then enjoying a number of excellent songs and recitations interspersing the usual loyal, patriotic and fraternal toasts.

If sick headache is misery, what are Carter's Little Pills for? They will positively cure it! People who have used them speak frankly of their worth. They are small and easy to take.

Head's Pills cure nausea, sick headache, indigestion, biliousness, all druggists. 25c.

CEDAR HILL ELECTORS FIGHTING FOR A CHILD

Discuss the Assessment Rate With Hon. Mr. Eberts, Representative for South Victoria.

He Points Out That the Act Provides a Remedy by Courts of Revision.

Some twenty of the residents of South Victoria district met at the Cedar Hill school last night to discuss the advisability of seeking to have the assessment on lands in the district reduced.

Mr. Munro Miller, who was chosen as chairman, said that he knew about it was that he had been asked as school trustee to allow the school room to be used for a meeting to discuss taxation, so he thought that some of those who had fathered the meeting should give their reasons for calling it.

No one coming forward, Hon. D. M. Eberts, Attorney-General, remarked that he was present by invitation, as he had been at a similar meeting at the Royal Oak a few evenings ago, and though quite ready to give all the information he could to value the lands, he would be becoming in him to speak first.

A letter was read from Mr. H. Dallas Helmecke, M.P.P., regretting that through illness he could not be present. He promised, however, that should any question relating to the matter come up in the legislature he would give it his closest attention and would do all he could to meet the farmer's views.

Mr. David Stevens, at the invitation of the chair, came forward to give his views, although he thought it was his place as he had nothing to do with calling the meeting, although responsible for the one held last week at the Royal Oak. His idea was that the present rate of assessment had been put on in boom times, but now that the value of farming lands had fallen he considered the assessment too high.

He thought some graduated system of taxing farming land could be introduced, and he wanted to know if the government would consider this brought about. The land in South Victoria district was taxed higher than it should be, for some of it if put in the market to-day would not sell for half it was taxed for. He thought if the farmers presented a petition to the members of the legislature they could carry their point and have the assessment reduced.

Hon. Mr. Eberts said he had listened with pleasure to Mr. Stevens, and there was a good deal of truth in what he had said, but he had hardly put the whole situation before them. Mr. Stevens had said that the farmers of Victoria district were overtaxed. Well let them look at the question and see if it was not in their own hands to relieve themselves in the matter. He referred to the assessment act to show that the assessment is not fixed by the government at all, but by an assessor appointed by authority of the legislature. The assessor's duty is defined by a most deserving clause which would be sold in open market. If a man objected to his assessment, he could appeal to the court of revision and from there to a judge of the Supreme court, a man appointed by the province for the purpose of the act.

Mr. Stevens wanted lands graded for assessment. He moved the same resolution as passed at the Royal Oak, asking for a reduction of the assessment, with the amounts owing by delinquents. Speaking of the resolution, he objected to the personal attack in it on Mr. Booth, the present assessor.

Mr. S. F. Chandler was of the opinion that a better plan than the present would be to have a committee of two or three farmers, who should value the lands and give that valuation to the assessor.

Mr. Stevens next made an attack on the assessor, saying he did not know his business. He seconded Mr. Grant's resolution.

Mr. Chandler objected strongly to the latter part of the resolution relating to the appointment of another assessor, and moved that this part of it be struck out. In this he was seconded by Mr. George Deans. Mr. Sears also objected to the latter part of the resolution as being too personal, and this seemed to be the general opinion as Mr. Chandler's amendment was carried, and the resolution so amended passed. The meeting then adjourned.

The Whole Story. Of the great sales attended and great success accomplished by Hood's Sarsaparilla is quickly told. It purifies and enriches the blood, tones the stomach and gives strength and vigor. Disease cannot enter the system fortified by Hood's Sarsaparilla, and which comes by taking Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Hood's Pills cure nausea, sick headache, indigestion, biliousness, all druggists. 25c.

MOTHER FLEES TO VICTORIA FROM UTAH WITH HER YOUNG DAUGHTER.

The Father Traces Them, and Carries Off the Little Girl by the "Kingston."

There was a somewhat exciting scene on the City of Kingston's wharf last night just as the steamer pulled out for Puget Sound, a lady appealing to the policemen standing on the wharf to get back her child from the father, who had just left on the steamer. But the boat was gone, and however willing the police might have been to help, they could do nothing.

It was on Christmas Day that Thomas Mercer, a wealthy ranchman, who lives at Ogden, Utah, reached Victoria with Sheriff Wright, of Utah, in search of his little six-year-old daughter. Mr. Mercer's story was that two years ago he was divorced from his wife, who, however, had the right once a week to see the little daughter, whom the courts had decreed should be in the father's care. The child was taken to see her mother on the day of the United States general elections, and that night mother and child disappeared. The father, who is very wealthy, left no stone unturned in his search for the child, and finally traced Mrs. Mercer and the little girl to British Columbia, a week or so ago.

He came here at once, and Mrs. Mercer went over to Vancouver. When the father went back to the Terminal City Mrs. Mercer again crossed over here, and with the child had lodgings in a private family. Mr. Mercer with the papers he had showing that he was entitled to the child's custody, is understood to have taken legal advice here and whether he was acting on this advice or on his own idea, met the mother last night and taking possession of the child hastily took her down to the Kingston and boarded the steamer just before she sailed.

Whether Mrs. Mercer will take any further steps towards regaining possession of her daughter is not known, but she must be in the United States courts, as both husband and child are out of Canadian jurisdiction.

THE CITY

A RESTIVE horse and a careless driver nearly resulted in a smash-up to an express wagon on Langley street yesterday afternoon.

Messrs. E. J. Gray and Frank E. Alley, heretofore doing business as Gray & Alley, have dissolved partnership, Mr. Gray retiring.

The committee of the Maternity Home wish to express their thanks to the Mayor and corporation for their donation of \$25 to the funds of the home.

At the manse, 248 Cook street, last evening Rev. Dr. Campbell united in holy matrimony Mr. Lars Frederick Person and Miss Anna D. Richart, both of Port Angeles. Immediately after the ceremony the happy couple left for their home by the steamer Kingston.

The public schools throughout the province will reopen on Monday morning at 9:30, in accordance with the regulations in memory of the late Mr. Mackenzie provide: "That the winter vacation shall continue for two weeks preceding the first Monday in January after New Year's day."

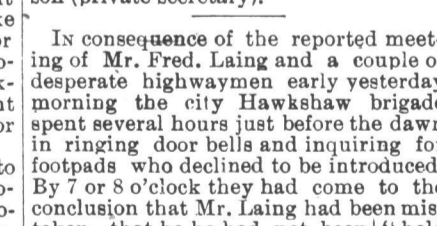
OAKLANDS volunteer fire company have elected the following officers for the ensuing year: N. Sabin, captain; G. Clark, first lieutenant; T. Shannon, second lieutenant; Watson Clark, treasurer; and W. Nicholas, secretary. The volunteers held an at home in their hall last evening, a large number of residents of the locality attending.

The Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. Dewdney entertained the following ladies and gentlemen at dinner yesterday evening: Mrs. J. W. Mackenzie, Mrs. Mrs. and Miss Lansing, Sir Charles H. Tupper, Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle, Mr. and Mrs. T. Grant, Mr. Lindley Crease, the Misses Crease, Mr. Gavin H. Burns, Mr. Charles B. Warren, Miss Allison, Miss Muriel Richardson and Captain Richardson (private secretary).

In consequence of the reported meeting of Mr. Fred. Laing and a couple of desperate highwaymen yesterday morning the city Hawkeshaw brigade spent several hours just before the dawn in ringing door bells and inquiring for footpads who declined to be introduced. By 7 or 8 o'clock they had come to the conclusion that Mr. Laing had been mistaken—that he had not been "held up," but on the contrary would have fared better if he had been when he and an open cellar door got tangled up together as were, in the darkness that is so common to cellars at certain hours of the night the features of a concrete floor might very easily have been mistaken for those of a highwayman, and it was thus, the police assert, that Mr. Laing was deceived.

At the South Saanich Temperance Hall on Tuesday evening last a "birth-day social" was given by the South Saanich Temperance Society. The following programme was rendered and heartily appreciated throughout: Chairman's address, Mr. Al. Gale; piano solo, Mrs. Butler; song, Mrs. Butler; dialogue, Messrs. Dora Butler; instrumental duet, Messrs. Brooks and DeLelune; song, Mrs. Rowlands; musical sketch, Messrs. Parsons and La Folle; song, Miss Dora Butler; one act farce, "The Photograph," Messrs. Parsons, Tanner, Stewart and La Folle; song, Miss Thomson; Irish character sketch, Mr. J. W. Stewart; song, Mr. Rowlands; reading, Mr. G. Sluggert; song, Mr. G. Parsons and comedy "Whistle and Wait for Katie," Messrs. Stewart, Parsons, Gale and Miss Thomson.

Ask your grocer for



For Table and Dairy, Purest and Best

VALUES OF STEAM SCHOENERS.

Values of vessels and technical evidence as to the machinery in the steam occupied much of yesterday's sitting on the Behring sea claims commission. William Sleightholme put the value of the Thornton previous to her being fitted with machinery at \$5,000; and with machinery at \$7,000. A copy of the report of A. W. Lavender, assistant treasury agent at Ounaslaska, was put in by Sir Charles H. Tupper to show that Mr. Lavender considered the Thornton when new worth \$7,000. John W. Griffiths, of the Interior Works, states that the engines of the Thornton would cost \$3,000 to \$4,000 to put in, and Captain John Irving stated that a similar vessel to the Thornton would have cost \$8,000 to \$10,000 with machinery, or \$6,000 without.

The cases of the Anna Beck, Grace, Dolphin and Sayward were then taken up. H. J. Cook valued the Anna Beck at between \$5,000 and \$6,000; Walter Walker valued the same vessel at about \$8,000; the Grace at \$12,000 in 1887; the Dolphin, with machinery, at \$13,000 or \$14,000; and the Sayward at \$7,000.

Some long technical evidence was given by the boiler inspector, Mr. J. A. Thomson, who estimated the Thornton's machinery in 1886 as worth \$2,000 or \$2,700, this being acquired in by Chief Engineer Grant, of the Quadra. Mr. Thomson also valued the Beck's machinery at \$2,600 to \$2,700; the Grace's at \$3,200; and the Dolphin's at \$3,400—Chief Engineer Grant putting the value a few hundred dollars higher. The little assessment at the expense of the United States was caused by Captain Theodore Magesnes, who was called by the United States, saying in cross-examination by Hon. Mr. Peters that in 1890 he had made his best estimate of the value of the Thornton as \$10,000, and that since September was not a good month for sailing did not know what they were talking about.

THE RETAIL MARKETS.

After the rush and bustle of the Christmas season there is little doing in the stores just at present. By the leading grocers the holiday trade is reported as having been better than this year, although the smaller establishments for some reason or other found the case reversed. Meat at present shows an upward tendency; it has already advanced a point or two with the wheat, and it is expected that the change will soon be felt by the consumers as well. A consignment of frozen Eastern pork came to hand during the week just ended, being the second shipment of the kind received this season. It is of course handled through the cold storage, and the mild weather of the past few days has naturally been very trying to it. The weather, so unsatisfactory to the importation of meat, has, however, cheapened frozen eggs, they being at present quoted at 40 cents with every indication that still lower prices will soon prevail. The retail quotations for the week are as follows:

Table listing various commodities and their prices, including flour, wheat, corn, and other goods.

HIGHBINDER TROUBLES.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—Chinatown is again in the throes of a highbinder's war. Yesterday the body of Lee Hoy was found suspended from a rafter in a vacant house on Stockton street. The man had been stabbed back of the ear before being hanged. A few minutes before 1 o'clock yesterday morning a number of men belonging to the Chinese society of Bow On Tong, a prominent man on Jackson street, between Dupont and Stockton. All the assassins escaped, and so far there is little clue to their identity. The police believe the highbinder war has broken out afresh, and accordingly a guard was placed upon the consulate last night.

We know that Cod-liver Oil is a fat-forming food because takers of it gain rapidly in weight under its use and the whole body receives vital force.

When prepared as in Scott's Emulsion, it is quickly and easily changed into the tissues of the body. As your doctor would say, "it is easily assimilated." Perhaps you are suffering from fat starvation. You take fat enough with your food, but it either isn't the right kind, or it isn't digested. You need fat prepared for you, as in Scott's Emulsion.

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS.

The children of Christ Church Sunday school enjoyed their annual Christmas treat and entertainment in the cathedral schoolroom last evening. A short service was held at the cathedral at 7 p.m., after which the children—about 120 in number—marched back to the school where a distribution of prizes by Bishop Perrin took place. Two scholars from each class received handsome books for obtaining the highest number of marks during the year. Tea and cake followed, and many thanks were tendered to teachers and friends for providing so liberal a supply. The great event of the evening took place when the drop-curtain was raised, and there on the platform stood the huge Christmas tree, brilliant with lighted tapers and weighted down with presents and all that makes a tree an enjoyment to the little ones. The articles were all ticketed and every child received a present. One of the most pleasing features of the evening was a presentation to Rev. Canon Beauland of a beautiful standard drawing room lamp by the teachers and scholars of the school. Carol singing and games followed, and as the children left, each received oranges and a bag of candy. The teachers desire to thank the many friends who contributed towards the tea. This is the second entertainment held this winter, and it is hoped to hold another after Easter.

The scholars of the Congregational church Sunday school gathered last evening at 6 o'clock at their annual Christmas treat. A more well-behaved group of youngsters it would be difficult to find at any tea-meeting, and all enjoyed the gathering. At 8 o'clock the friends of the school were admitted and the scholars rendered the following interesting programme:

- Recitation... Lillian Talbot
Song... Infant Class
Recitation... Sidney Talbot
Recitation... Miss Scowcroft
Recitation... Winnie Spowcroft
Recitation... Harry Coates
Recitation... Three Little Girls
Recitation... Pearl Bickelrude
Recitation... Mbe Harris

The proceedings were varied with congregational singing at intervals, and on the conclusion of the programme the Christmas tree was stripped of its treasures and the happy young folk were sent to their homes, each with a pretty present tightly hugged.

Originality in the selection of presents to adorn the tree was one of the most pleasing features of the Christmas entertainment in the Victoria West Baptist mission last evening. The little church was crowded to its capacity, and the Christmas saint was never more plainly evidenced. Previous to the distribution of the tree's fruits an excellent programme was provided; the different numbers being as follows: Chorus—"Come, Come, Come." Recitation... Francis Weaver
Recitation... Gladie Olds
Song... Ethel Wilson
Dialogue... Eight Boys
Recitation... Nina Weaver
Recitation... Mattie Andrews
Recitation... Paul Smith
Recitation... Della Weaver
Club-swinging... Four Girls
Recitation... Arthur Knappett
Song... Alice Smith
Recitation... Edith Coates
Song... Rod Smith
Recitation... Maud Knappett
Instrumental Duet... Marion Smith
Recitation... Jim Painter
Instrumental Solo... Bruce McNaughton
Recitation... Ethel Wilson
Recitation... Fred. Wilson
Chorus... The School

St. Barnabas' church Sunday school will hold its annual Christmas entertainment in the Oddfellows hall, Fawcett wood road, this evening. Tea will be served to the children at 5 o'clock, after which games will be the order of the evening. At 7 o'clock there will be the distribution of prizes and gifts from the Christmas tree, by Santa Claus in person. The children will then render a programme of songs, recitations and music. The parents and members of the congregation are cordially invited to attend. The children of the British Columbia Protestant Orphans Home also have their Christmas treat to-day, 3 o'clock being the hour set for the interesting reunion, and the friends of the home being cordially invited to be present.

Have You Ever Tried?

Have you ever tried to dye over your castoff garments? Thousands in Canada answer "Yes, and very successfully, too." To those who have not attempted the work we would say, "There is money in it if you use the Diamond Dye." Old dresses, mantles, jackets, coats, pants, and vests, and other articles of wearing apparel can easily be recreated and made fit for wear at a trifling cost. The cost expended for some fashionable color of the Diamond Dye will save you several dollars. This wonderful transformation and money-saving work can only be done perfectly by using the Diamond Dye. Ask your dealer for them; be sure you refuse all substitutes.

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1896.

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W. H. ELLIS, Manager. A. G. RABSON, Secretary.

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Per week, if delivered, 20. Subscriptions in all cases are payable strictly in advance.

ADVERTISING RATES. REGULAR COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING, as distinguished from every kind of a transient character—that is to say, advertising referring to regular Mercantile and Manufacturing Businesses, Government and Notices—published at the following rates, per line, solid nonpareil, the duration of publication to be specified at the time of ordering advertisements.

More than one fortnight and not more than one month, 50 cents.

More than one week and not more than one fortnight, 40 cents.

Not more than one week, 30 cents.

No advertisement under this classification inserted for less than \$2.50, and accepted at less than for every day insertion.

Theatrical advertisements, 10 cents per line each insertion.

Advertisements unaccompanied by specific instructions inserted till ordered out.

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TRANSIENT ADVERTISING—Per line solid nonpareil. First insertion, 10 cents; each subsequent consecutive insertion, 5 cents.

Advertisements not inserted every day, 10 cents per line each insertion. No advertisement inserted for less than \$1.50.

Births, Marriages and Deaths, \$1.00; funeral notices, 50 cents extra.

Where cuts are inserted they must be ALL METAL—not mounted on wood.

COLONIES AND THE EMPIRE.

Early in the present month a brief cable report was published in the Colonist of a meeting of the British Empire League, which was held in the Mansion House. On that occasion speeches were delivered, among other representatives of the colonies and dependencies, by Sir Charles Tupper, leader of the Conservative opposition in Canada, and Hon. R. R. Dobell, a member of the present Liberal administration. The deliberations and deliverances of that important assemblage can in no sense be regarded as other than of the most serious import, involving as they did the consideration of the responsibilities, the obligations and the duties connected with the commerce of an immense empire and at the same time the peaceful or other relations of the peoples of the world, largely directed by the maintenance of the proud position occupied by Great Britain as the mistress of the seas.

The membership of the League, as such, knows no party politics, whether of Great Britain or the Colonies. Not only were speeches full of significance made among others on the part of those who represented Canada, but the Duke of Devonshire, the president of the League, set forth in eloquent and forcible terms the progress which had been made by the organization, and further explained how the Imperial Government was co-operating with the Colonies to provide for the adequate defence of the Empire.

"Defence, not defiance" was, it may be remarked, the keynote of the gathering, the object of all present, and all who sympathize with the movement, being the consolidation of British prowess and British institutions, as embodied in the Empire, and the intensification of the feeling that colonists as well as natives of the Islands are heirs of all the ages in the almost boundless march of time as concerns the progress, the greatness, the power and the influence for good of all that may be claimed to be British.

In much of this we notice that many of our neighbors to the South claim to be rightful participators, and this we do not grudge them, as our own glorious heritage is large enough and rich enough to permit them to take a full share. In their enjoyment of this, it is to be hoped that they will grow increasingly proud of the relationship and less disposed to carp and quibble over minor matters, at the same time being more appreciative of the honor and the responsibilities attaching to the connection.

Very naturally, the Duke of Devonshire concurred with the remark of Right Hon. Mr. Chamberlain, some months ago, that the question of Imperial unity must be approached from the commercial side, and this led him to refer to the Colonial conference held some time back at Ottawa. Speaking of this, His Lordship said that although the time might not be ripe for the discussion of either of the commercial proposals as to Imperial and Colonial trade that were made at that conference, it might be possible for the British and the Colonial mercantile communities to make suggestions of an informal character through the agency of such an association as this, which would pave the way for the formation of a better understanding, and it might be possible then to collect materials which would form the basis of discussion and another conference which might be held on the subject. His Lordship proceeded to say:

I have referred to the great moral effect which was produced by that conference as a visible symbol of the Empire—(cheers)—but in addition to that it had at least one immediate result of a practical character. The naval agreement which was entered into between this country and the Australian colonies and the colony of New Zealand was the outcome of that conference. By that agreement the colonies undertook to pay the interest on the cost of construction and a part of the cost of maintenance, of a considerable addition to our fleet to be maintained in Australasian waters for the protection of British and colonial commerce. (Cheers.) Those colonies had already undertaken considerable obligations of a naval and military character for their own defence, but this agreement was the first recognition which had ever been made by any of the colonies of the duty and interest of the colonies to contribute to the support of the Imperial navy.

It was further stated by the Duke, with respect to Imperial and Colonial defence, that the Colonial Defence Committee, composed of representatives of the Admiralty, the War Office and the Colonial Office, had made a complete study of the question of Colonial Defence, as it affects every colony of the British Empire, and this he went on to explain at some length, as appears in another column of this morning's paper. The importance of His Lordship's explanations, particularly in view of what is at present being done at Esquimaux and what there may be still in contemplation, will no doubt cause the report to be read with special and peculiar interest.

A NEW VIEW.

We have grown accustomed to hear of the Armenians as an oppressed, persecuted, down-trodden people. Our sympathies have been awakened by their sufferings, and our indignation stirred against the brutal rulers whose cruelty and ruthlessness have rendered their native land an abode of woe and misery. We have, perhaps, become somewhat tired of listening to the sorrows of people whom we cannot help and who have learned to think have no capability of helping themselves. We pity the Armenians, it is true, but at bottom the pity of many of us is, to some extent, mingled with contempt. That this estimate of the Armenians is a greatly mistaken one, an article by Emma Cons, in the December number of the Contemporary Review, on "The Armenian Exiles in Cyprus," shows very plainly. It is the writer gives an interesting description of a holiday trip to Cyprus, made by her and a friend last September. They went for the purpose of assisting in the establishment for widows and orphans at Nicosia, which had been undertaken by Mrs. Sheldon Ames. They were too early to help in this work, but their willing hands did not remain idle. They had gone by way of Constantinople in a French vessel, on board of which were one hundred and ten Armenians, mostly men, some of whom had obtained passports for Smyrna and others for Beyrout.

When they got to Smyrna sixty of the passengers landed, and were immediately arrested and imprisoned under the pretence that they had left behind in their houses treasonable papers, of which the authorities had obtained possession. The remaining passengers, dreading a similar fate, decided not to land at Beyrout, as they had intended, but to go to Larnaca, the principal town in Cyprus, where they would be safe under the protection of the British flag. The refugees first gained the good opinion of the writer, because in spite of their evident destitution, they did not ask the rich English ladies for money, though this is the invariable custom of the Turks and Arabs who are met with in this part of the world.

However, the ladies went to work immediately to help them in a way that would be acceptable to honest, independent men and women. One of their number, a young advocate, was set to work to draw up a list of their names, ages, and occupations before they landed. After they arrived at Larnaca, a town with a population of about eight thousand, he was employed to keep a similar record of all the refugees who were arriving in other ships. This work he at first refused to be paid for; but when his own money was gone, he accepted the ordinary wage of a laborer on the roads in that country, a shilling a day. The ladies then undertook to form committees of the principal inhabitants of the Island in order to set these people at the work for which they were best adapted. Some of the men were employed as gardeners. Two cooks and a barber started a cafe. The Mayor supplied work for the most destitute at the ordinary wages. One committee sent in a report as to what had been done for sixty-one of these immigrants. Among those supplied with work were one tobacco sorter, four coppersmiths, two silk weavers, one silk reeler, one carpenter, one blacksmith, two dress-makers, three block printers, porters and others without occupations. The report states that:

We advance the money necessary for providing the trade implements as a loan without interest, to be refunded from the profits of the concern. A house is also to be provided for such artisans as the block printers, the weavers, the coppersmiths and the silk reeler. It is hardly likely that among sixty people of any nation cast adrift in a strange town there would be found a larger proportion of skilled labor. The writer of the magazine article believes that the Armenians would have the same effect upon the industries of Cyprus as

the Huguenots had, two centuries ago, on those of England, and thinks that the English Government ought to encourage their immigration into that island. The Armenians are good farmers, and a great part of the island has been allowed to become a desert for want of intelligent cultivation. That there is plenty of room in Cyprus for industrious and intelligent immigrants is shown by the fact that while it once had a population of three millions there are now in the island but 186,000 people. It will be interesting to learn the result of this practical attempt to relieve a small portion of Armenian distress.

BAD METHODS.

There has been a great deal of rejoicing among the Liberal party over the Cornwall election; but if the Toronto Mail's account of the manner in which the election was gained is correct, the victors have very little reason for self-gratulation. Prejudices are much more easily roused than allayed, and race and religious hatred is a two-edged sword that is as likely to wound the party who raises it as that against which its blows are directed. The Mail says: One of his (Mr. Laurier's) agents from Montreal regaled the French-Canadians of Cornwall with the story that he is objected to by his opponents solely because he is a Frenchman. Another invented the falsehood that Sir John Thompson was denied his legitimate place in the councils of Canada, and was actually killed in Windsor Castle, because he was a Roman Catholic.

It is hard to believe that such methods were resorted to by the agents of one who has been looked upon by some as a sort of Bayard in politics. But the actions of the past year have shown that Mr. Laurier has learned to use, not the instrument which he would have chosen, but that which lies most ready to his hand.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

An experienced New York plumber in a letter to the Herald, of that city, makes a proposition for coping with the dangers of atmospheric infection in the large cities by providing for the combustion of the foul sewer gas. He says: "Why not annihilate sewer gas? Why not burn it up? Why not build stations equipped with furnaces and high chimneys, into which the gas would be drawn to be forced over the fires and consumed? This process of combustion would create a natural and constant draught toward the point of combustion." Then, the writer adds, the drainage system of dwellings would be properly ventilated by pure air drawn down through the ventilating pipes opening on roofs and out into the street sewer, driving before it the disease-breeding sewer gas to the purification-station.

IGNORANCE IN RUSSIA.

The ignorance of the Russian nation is very forcibly shown in the following paragraph from the New York Commercial Advertiser. "The condition of the people of the Russian empire, in point of intelligence, is the most deplorable of any nation in letters or in education, is indicated in the fact that of the men last year drawn for army service, more than 200,000 could neither read nor write. One in five of the men of population of that mighty realm has the acquirements of the ordinary child of even less than ten years in an American school—or, as matter of fact, in an English or French or German school."

"Two Czars of Russia in the past have made themselves names imperishable—Peter the Great, who, in the exercise of a personal enterprise the world has ever delighted in, telling of introduced the elementary principles of civilization into his dominions, and Alexander, who freed the serfs. The Czar who shall disseminate and render practically effective a scheme of popular education will do more for the glory and good of Russia and for the progress of the world than any predecessor of his. Let the Russian people as a people become educated, and absolutism in government over them, with its show of tremendous sovereignty, would decay and perish, but the nation would grow irresistible in its might, and the throne of whatever stands for authority and supremacy has real power, and not as now, sham power brutally but also precariously held."

THE STUBBORN SULTAN.

(From the Portland Oregonian.) The story that the three great maritime powers would intervene jointly to coerce the Sultan and impose administrative reforms in Turkey has been told so often that it has lost interest. Probably it is true, since everybody seems to believe it but the Sultan himself. Apparently nothing will convince him but the appearance of the three fleets in the Golden Horn. His attitude then will determine the dramatic and historical interest of the subsequent proceedings. If he shall be very humble and accept the proposed reforms without question or qualification, British power will gain its point by prolonging his empire for another season. If he still shuffles, evades and resists, as Russia undoubtedly desires the end for which Russian policy has striven and waited for more than a century will come. That is, the Turkish empire in Europe will come to an end. It is probable that the powers have anticipated this contingency, and that even then there will be no general war.

The Prussian government is systematically representing the agitation in the Polish provinces. The archbishops and bishops have been notified that unless they stop the propaganda among the lower Polish clergy, the government must treat the Catholic church as severely. House searches have been made in the case of members of the Society of St. Kilian at Beuthen, and President Dombarek was arrested. All the Polish Societies are closely watched.

SATAN'S SIGNATURE.

(From the New York Herald.)

The assertion has been made that there exists in the Free Masons' lodge in Rome a document which bears the signature of the devil. The question now arises, Can the devil write? This interrogation is considered in ecclesiastical circles of so much importance that two German papers—the Pelikan, published in Feldberg, and edited by Dr. Kunzle, and the Volkszeitung, of Cologne—have been engaged in a heated controversy on the subject for some time.

This controversy was provoked by the publication of a tract called "The Secrets of Hell," written by a pious woman, Miss Diana Vaughan. Its author gives an account of a conference that took place on the night of October 18, 1883, between the devil and Signor Crispi, who afterwards became Premier in the government of the Kingdom of Italy. It was held in the Free Masons' lodge in Rome, of which Crispi is a member, and the interest of it lay in the circumstance that the devil predicted that within a year from the time of the certain woman, whom he named, would give birth to a child, destined to become the grandmother of a boy, who would serve as the most powerful of his earthly allies. In testimony of the truth of this prediction a document was drawn up at the end of which the devil wrote his title, "Sanctus Daemon, Primarius Praeses," which may be translated as "First Presiding Sacred Devil." He did not write in words, but in symbolical signs, such as a rooster, a three pronged fire fork, a pair of horns and a caudal appendage, using for that purpose a pen which lay in the lodge room. The Free Masons besides Signor Crispi kept an eye on him while he was engaged in writing, or rather drawing. The news of this affair leaked out, and it came into the possession of Miss Vaughan, the author of the tract on the subject.

Now Dr. Kunzle, of the Pelikan, contends for the genuineness of the signature, appeals to tradition in support of his opinion, and fortifies his appeal with arguments drawn from theologians of distinction. Among the many prominent men supporting him in his opinion may be named the aristocratic Prince Zu Loewenstein. The Volkszeitung, on the contrary, refuses to give credence to the story. It holds that "only superstitious people could believe in the authenticity of the devil's signature, and the report of the interview with Signor Crispi, the Free Mason." While the Volkszeitung affirms that it is certain that a man like Crispi might hold interviews with Satan, sometimes known in the Tyrol as "Vitru," it rejects the testimony offered as proof of Vitru's appearance in the lodge at Rome. "How could Vitru know," it questions, "that the woman Sappho would give birth to the grandmother of the chief one of his earthly allies?"

Can the devil write? How few of us have ever given the subject a thought, and how perfectly natural the quick rejoinder is, "Why, of course he cannot!" And yet why should he not? That is, provided we admit the existence of a devil, of a fallen angel, of a prince of darkness. If we believe the story of Lucifer's disobedience and consequent banishment from heaven into the eternal fires of hell, we practically admit the existence of the devil! If we read the story literally, we even look upon it as a myth, we must admit his superiority, the nobility and grandeur of the archangel Lucifer, as God created him as he was before his fall, and even today he is a formidable opponent of the Creator! We cannot close our eyes to that fact! Our ministers warn us against him, prayers are offered up for strength to withstand him, the Salvation Army, that powerful organization which has grown up in our midst, and which has stubbornly forced us to admit the good it does and admire while we may not approve of its methods, has for its principal aim the conquest of the devil.

THE HAWAIIAN QUESTION.

(From the N. Y. Times.)

The Hawaiian Minister of Foreign Affairs, now visiting this country, is reported as representing the Hawaiian government to be in fear of what the Japanese may do, and anxious for annexation to the United States on that account. The Japanese, Minister Cooper says, "outnumber all other foreigners" in Hawaii, the Americans being a "handful in comparison," and they "are beginning to chafe for the right to vote." If they get it "American ascendancy will be at an end forever." Regarding Hawaii as an independent nation, why has a numerous body of "foreigners" any less right to power than a "handful" of other foreigners? If it is a republic, why do not the foreigners from Japan chafe for the same rights that are allowed to foreigners from the United States?

What special right has a "handful" of Americans to "ascendancy" in a land of freedom, any way? If it is not a land of freedom, if it is not a republic, if the majority is not fit to rule, if its larger "foreign elements" are undesirable for citizenship, and if it has to be governed by some kind of a handful of superior persons, why should we annex it to our system, which is founded upon the "consent of the governed" and the right of the majority to rule? Every advocate of Hawaiian annexation seems destined to have the arguments he uses in its favor turn upon his very lips into arguments against it. He presents reasons why Hawaii is utterly unfit to become a part of the United States. We do not want such a possession.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—According to news received here from unofficial sources, Li Hung Chang's visit to England and the United States has already borne fruit in the decision of the Chinese government to gradually Anglicize the Chinese people at least as far as their language is concerned. The Peking government recently issued instructions to various viceroys and governors of provinces of the empire to establish schools for the teaching of the English language and foreign sciences in all the principal cities of the country. According to the wording of one clause in the general instructions, it is required that in that China, in order to keep herself on terms of equality and in touch with the great powers of Europe, must educate the masses and encourage foreign learning among her people, together with that love of country and home, and that devoted patriotism so conspicuously ingrained in the hearts of those who have studied such languages and sciences.

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BIG STRIKE AT ROSSLAND. ROSSLAND, Dec. 28.—(Special)—A big strike is reported to-night in the City of Spokane mine. This belongs to Hornepayne's syndicate, the Lillooet, Fraser River and Cariboo Gold Fields Co. The mine was bought by them last May for \$47,500, and upwards of \$50,000 have since been spent in equipping and developing the property. Squatters on the lands of the Nelson and Fort Sheppard railway and the adjoining townsite held a meeting on Sunday evening in the hall of the International hotel to take steps to ascertain who really owns the ground. A committee was appointed to look into the matter of title and report. A strike of some importance is reported in the tunnel of the Novelty. The ore is of the same character as is found in the Giant which adjoins. PRINCETON, Ind., Dec. 28.—A terrible explosion of fire damp occurred in the mine of the Mamie Coal Company, this city, at 3:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon, and as a result nine or more were instantly killed and four were injured. One of the four men taken out alive is dangerously injured. Besides the dead bodies recovered so far, five or six others, names unknown, are dead in the mine.